

The increases go hand-in-hand with others, including a 3% jump in attendance to 25.1 million guests last year, the company said. Average in-park spending also increased 2% to a record \$46.90 per guest.

Out-of-park spending also hit record numbers, coming it at \$146 million - a 6% increase from 2015. Cedar fair attributed those revenues in part to higher occupancy rates and average daily room rates at the company's resort properties.

"We credit this achievement to our unique regional brands and the positive responses we have received for our special events programming and immersive entertainment offerings," CEO Matt Ouimet said. "These individual park brands allow us to provide our guests an experience unmatched by other generic amusement parks. This in turn has resulted in strong guest loyalty within the regions we operate and decades of record growth across all revenue channels."

Based on the year-end earnings report, the company said it's confident it will achieve its long-term growth goal of \$500 million in Adjusted EBITDA by the end of 2017, which is a year earlier than planned.

Diebold Nixdorf: The company reported fourth-quarter revenue of \$1.2 billion - an increase of nearly 104% over last year as a result of the acquisition of Wincor Nixdorf.

Full-year revenue also increased 37.1% to \$3.3 billion compared to 2015, the company said. It cautioned, however, that comparisons to previous periods are materially affected by the August acquisition.

DDR: The Beachwood company posted fourth quarter net income attributable to common shareholders of \$28.1 million, or \$0.08 per diluted share

For its full fiscal year ended Dec. 31, it reported net income of \$37.6 million, or \$0.10 per diluted share. That's an improvement over last year, when it saw a net loss of \$94.5 million, or \$0.27 per diluted share.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, February 16

~~Canceled: Real Estate Appraiser Board, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.~~

Wednesday, February 22

~~Racing Commission, 77 S. High St., Rm. 1960, Columbus, 10 a.m.~~

~~State Personnel Board of Review, 65 E. State St., 12th Fl., Columbus, 10 a.m.~~

Wednesday, March 22

~~State Personnel Board of Review, 65 E. State St., 12th Fl., Columbus, 10 a.m.~~

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, February 22

**Ohio Farm Bureau Ag Day at the Capital, Sheraton Columbus Hotel, 75 State Street, Columbus
Tuesday, March 21**

**Ohio Craft Brewers Association legislative reception, Wolf's Ridge Brewing, 215 N. 4th St.,
Columbus, 5 p.m.**

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

**Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin
Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers**

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

**© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without
the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101
et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic
mail.**



Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, February 16

Legislative Committees

House Finance: State Government & Agency Review Sub. (Chr. Faber, K., 466-6344), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

- Budget testimony from Optical Dispensers Board, Optometry Board, Dietetics Board, and Public Testimony.

House State & Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041), Rm. 116, 9 a.m.

HB 5 **MICROBUSINESSES** (Pelanda, D., Gavarone, T.) To create a statutory definition of "microbusiness." (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 12 **OFFICIAL STATE STRUCTURE** (Gonzales, A.) To designate the barn as the official historical architectural structure of the state. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 31 **GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING** (Cupp, R.) To abolish the Government Contracting Advisory Council. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 34 **PUBLIC NOTICES** (Hambley, S., Ryan, S.) To authorize certain state agencies, local governments, and other boards, commissions, and officers to deliver certain notices by ordinary mail and electronically instead of by certified mail. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

House Finance: Agriculture, Development & Natural Resources Sub. (Chr. Thompson, A., 644-8728), Rm. 018, 9 a.m.

- Budget testimony from OARDC and OSU Extension, Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board, Environmental Review Appeals Commission and Consumers' Counsel

Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (Committee Record) (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-7584), Finance Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

- Expansion Population - Ohio Medicaid Group VIII Assessment by Barbara Sears, Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid

Joint Education Oversight Committee (Committee Record) (Chr. Hite, C., 466-8150), South Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- Presentation from Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria on Ohio's Draft Accountability Plan for the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

House Aging & Long Term Care (Committee Record) (Chr. Arndt, S., 644-6011), Rm. 113, 10 a.m.

- Presentations by the Ohio Department of Aging and Ohio Department of Job & Family Services

House Finance: Higher Education Sub. (Chr. Perales, R., 644-6020), Ohio History Center, 800 E. 17th Ave., Cardinal Classroom, Columbus, 12 p.m.

- Budget testimony from Ohio History Connection, Ohioana Library Board, Ohioana Library Association

Agency Calendar

State Teachers Retirement System, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, 8 a.m.
School Employees Retirement System, 300 E. Broad St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.
~~Canceled: Real Estate Appraiser Board, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor,~~
~~Columbus, 9:30 a.m.~~
Children's Trust Fund, 77 South High Street, 31st Floor, Room East B, Columbus,
10 a.m.
Tuition Trust Authority, 77 S. High St., 31st Fl., West B&C, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Event Planner

No events scheduled.

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger,
Jon Reed, Staff Writers

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the
express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as
is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

From: Rep30

Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2017 2:25 PM

To: Merrin, Derek; Kasych, Shawn; Myers, Marisa; Schuring, Kirk

CC: Zielinski, Justin; Wolf, Jimmy; Springhetti, Blake

Subject: RE: Please Review Draft - 15% Insurance

Derek,

Since we talked on this, someone in a position to know (and I forget who it was) explained to me that the dental vision and life premiums are already built into the medical insurance premium we already pay as state legislators under the state plan. If so (and that can easily be confirmed either with Kim Flasher in the House or with DAS), your bill would have us pay twice for the same coverage. As you know, I wasn't for this idea in the first place, but this would be another reason to oppose.

Moreover, I am far from certain that lines 147-156 get you where you want to go on collective bargaining ("seek to obtain" is a far cry from obtaining).

From: Merrin, Derek

Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 10:02 AM

To: Kasych, Shawn <Shawn.Kasych@ohiohouse.gov>; Myers, Marisa <marisa.myers@ohiohouse.gov>; Seitz, Bill <Bill.Seitz@ohiohouse.gov>; Schuring, Kirk <Kirk.Schuring@ohiohouse.gov>

Cc: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>; Wolf, Jimmy <Jimmy.Wolf@ohiohouse.gov>; Springhetti, Blake <Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Please Review Draft - 15% Insurance

Kirt, Bill, Marissa, and Shawn:

I've attached draft legislation that would require state employees, not covered by CBA, to pay the same % of their premium for dental, vision, and life insurance that they pay for medical insurance.

This would have employees effectively paying 15% of the premium for all insurance (medical, dental, vision, life).

Employees currently pay 15% only for medical insurance.

Also, language is contained that would instruct the state to bargain to have the same provision included in CBA's that cover union, state employees.

Although I've discussed this issue with you already, I'd appreciate it if you would review the language and let me know if you have any suggestions or concerns.

Thank you,
Derek Merrin



From: Merrin, Derek
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 4:48 PM
To: Rep30; Kasych, Shawn; Myers, Marisa; Schuring, Kirk
CC: Zielinski, Justin; Wolf, Jimmy; Springhetti, Blake
Subject: RE: Please Review Draft 15% Insurance
Attachments: 15% LSC Fiscal.pdf

Bill:

Thanks for the response. I do believe you are incorrect.

To verify, I've had LSC do additional research and complete a fiscal impact analysis. Also, we've contacted Jason Parsons in the House for clarification.

Please see the attached LSC memo. I'll be moving forward with the bill next week. I'll wait your co-sponsor support.

Enjoy the weekend,
Derek



From: Rep30
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 2:25 PM
To: Merrin, Derek <Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov>; Kasych, Shawn <Shawn.Kasych@ohiohouse.gov>; Myers, Marisa <marisa.myers@ohiohouse.gov>; Schuring, Kirk <Kirk.Schuring@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>; Wolf, Jimmy <Jimmy.Wolf@ohiohouse.gov>; Springhetti, Blake <Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: Please Review Draft - 15% Insurance

Derek,

Since we talked on this, someone in a position to know (and I forget who it was) explained to me that the dental vision and life premiums are already built into the medical insurance premium we already pay as state legislators under the state plan. If so (and that can easily be confirmed either with Kim Flasher in the House or with DAS), your bill would have us pay twice for the same coverage. As you know, I wasn't for this idea in the first place, but this would be another reason to oppose.

Moreover, I am far from certain that lines 147-156 get you where you want to go on collective bargaining ("seek to obtain" is a far cry from obtaining).

From: Merrin, Derek

Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 10:02 AM

To: Kasych, Shawn <Shawn.Kasych@ohiohouse.gov>; Myers, Marisa <marisa.myers@ohiohouse.gov>; Seitz, Bill <Bill.Seitz@ohiohouse.gov>; Schuring, Kirk <Kirk.Schuring@ohiohouse.gov>

Cc: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>; Wolf, Jimmy <Jimmy.Wolf@ohiohouse.gov>; Springhetti, Blake <Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Please Review Draft - 15% Insurance

Kirt, Bill, Marissa, and Shawn:

I've attached draft legislation that would require state employees, not covered by CBA, to pay the same % of their premium for dental, vision, and life insurance that they pay for medical insurance.

This would have employees effectively paying 15% of the premium for all insurance (medical, dental, vision, life).

Employees currently pay 15% only for medical insurance.

Also, language is contained that would instruct the state to bargain to have the same provision included in CBA's that cover union, state employees.

Although I've discussed this issue with you already, I'd appreciate it if you would review the language and let me know if you have any suggestions or concerns.

Thank you,
Derek Merrin



Derek Merrin
Ohio House of Representatives
House District 47
Office (614) 466-1731
Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov
77 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

R-132-0684

Tom Wert

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: L_132_0070-2 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Drafted

Sponsor: Rep. Merrin

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Requires state employees to pay a share of premium costs for dental, vision, and basic life insurance

State Fiscal Highlights

- Requiring exempt employees to pay the same percentage of the coverage costs for dental, vision, and basic life insurance benefits as they do for health insurance will reduce the state outlay for these benefits by several millions of dollars annually. Currently, the employee rate of cost share for health insurance is 15%. There were about 16,400 exempt employees on the state payroll in December 2016.
- If the state were successful in negotiating for a similar rate of cost share among employees covered by collective bargaining contracts, the state's outlay for dental, vision, and basic life insurance for this group of employees would also be reduced by several millions of dollars annually. There are just under 35,900 collective bargaining unit employees currently on the state payroll.
- Estimated annual savings based on state benefit costs for FY 2016 and FY 2017 year to date are shown in the table within the "**Detailed Fiscal Analysis.**"

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill requires exempt state employees who receive dental, vision, or basic life insurance benefits through state plans coordinated by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to pay a percentage of the premium or percentage of the cost of that coverage equivalent to the percentage share they pay toward their state health coverage. For state employees covered by collective bargaining agreements, the bill requires the state to attempt to negotiate provisions in those agreements that require an employee cost share for dental, vision, and basic life insurance equal to the percentage of their share of the premium for health insurance. Under the state's current dental, vision, and basic life insurance programs, these benefits are provided to eligible state employees and their dependents at no cost. Requiring individuals that receive these benefits to pay a portion of the coverage costs could reduce state outlays for employee benefits by several millions of dollars annually. Additional details are provided under the headings below.

Exempt employee dental, vision, and basic life insurance

Under the state's current dental, vision, and basic life insurance plans, after one year of service eligible state employees receive coverage at no cost. For exempt employees, state agencies are assessed premium amounts for each employee that has elected coverage. These assessments are transferred from the agencies' payroll accounts to the State Employee Health Benefit Fund (Fund 8080) or the Life Insurance Investment Fund (Fund 8100), as applicable. Claims and administrative costs for the programs are then paid from these funds.

For exempt employees, the premium assessments for dental insurance are \$34.23 per month for single coverage and \$99.19 per month for employees with family coverage. Vision insurance rates are \$10.04 per month per employee with single coverage and \$27.61 per month per employee with family coverage. Life insurance rates for exempt employees are calculated for each employee independently. Under the current plan, the rate assessed to agencies is 11.7¢ for each \$1,000 of the covered employees' salary. As of March 2017, approximately 13,000 exempt employees are covered under the state's dental, vision, and basic life insurance plans.

Under the bill, exempt employees would be required to pay a portion of these assessments at a rate equal to the rate they pay for health insurance. Under the state's current health insurance plan, that rate is 15% of the coverage costs. Thus, under the current insurance plans, exempt employees would pay \$5.13 (\$34.23 x 15%) per month for single dental and \$14.88 (\$99.19 x 15%) for family dental insurance, \$1.51 (\$10.04 x 15%) for single vision and \$4.14 (\$27.61 x 15%) for family vision insurance, and 1.8¢ (11.7¢ x 15%) per \$1,000 of the covered employees' salary for life insurance.

As the table below shows, assessments to state employers to provide dental, vision, and basic life insurance benefits to exempt employees totaled more than \$17.6 million in FY 2016. Under the bill's proposal, exempt employees with these benefits would have paid more than \$2.6 million of that total. The table shows what the employee and state share of coverage costs would have been and the actual costs paid by the state for FY 2016 and year to date (as of March 14, 2017) for FY 2017 under the bill. These calculations are based on an employee paying a 15% share of the total cost of coverage.

| Exempt Employee Benefits Costs as Proposed under L. 132-0070-2 Compared to Actual Benefits Costs for FY 2016 and FY 2017 Year to Date | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Coverage | FY 2016 (Under L. 132-0070-2) | | YTD FY 2017 (Under L. 132-0070-2) | | Actual State Costs | |
| | Employee Share | State Share | Employee Share | State Share | FY 2016 | YTD FY 2017 |
| Dental | \$1,888,763 | \$10,702,993 | \$588,387 | \$3,334,195 | \$12,591,757 | \$3,922,582 |
| Vision | \$529,192 | \$2,998,755 | \$164,807 | \$933,906 | \$3,527,946 | \$1,098,713 |
| Life | \$224,926 | \$1,274,581 | \$71,406 | \$404,633 | \$1,499,507 | \$476,038 |
| TOTAL | \$2,642,882 | \$14,976,329 | \$824,600 | \$4,672,734 | \$17,619,211 | \$5,497,334 |

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Nonexempt employee dental, vision, and basic life insurance

Premium payments for dental, vision, and basic life benefits paid by the state for employees in a collective bargaining unit are specified in the collective bargaining agreement with the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association (OCSEA). Under the contract, the FY 2017 rate is \$82 per month per covered employee. For FY 2018 the rate increases to \$83 per month per covered employee. The amounts paid by the state of Ohio for these benefits that apply to union employees are deposited with the Union Benefits Trust Fund (UBTF) which pays the claims and administrative costs of these benefits programs. The UBTF is governed by a board of trustees consisting of a representative from the state and representatives from the five unions with the most state employee members. This fund is outside of the direct control of the state and is not subject to appropriations by the General Assembly. According to DAS, as of February 28, 2017, the total number of state employees in collective bargaining units was 35,818.

If the state were successful in negotiating an employee cost share for dental, vision, and basic life insurance at the current 15% rate, then union employees would pay \$12.30 per month ($\$82 \times 15\%$) for these benefits. In FY 2018 that rate would increase to \$12.45 per month ($\$83 \times 15\%$). In FY 2016, state contributions to the UBTF for these benefits totaled approximately \$31.0 million. As of March 14, 2017, FY 2017 year-to-date state contributions to the UBTF were slightly more than \$10.0 million. Assuming the requirement for union employees to pay 15% for dental, vision, and basic life insurance had been in place, savings to the state would have been approximately \$4.7 million in FY 2016 (15% of approximately \$31.0 million). FY 2017 savings year to date would have totaled slightly more than about \$1.5 million (15% of approximately \$10.0 million).

LSC132-0070-2.dncx/lb

From: Kasych, Shawn
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 6:30 PM
To: Merrin, Derek
CC: Rep30; Myers, Marisa; Schuring, Kirk; Zielinski, Justin; Wolf, Jimmy; Springhetti, Blake
Subject: Re: Please Review Draft 15% Insurance

What's the total savings of this proposal to the state?

Shawn Kasych
Majority Policy Director
614.466.0863

On Mar 17, 2017, at 4:48 PM, Merrin, Derek <Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

Bill:

Thanks for the response. I do believe you are incorrect.

To verify, I've had LSC do additional research and complete a fiscal impact analysis.

Also, we've contacted Jason Parsons in the House for clarification.

Please see the attached LSC memo. I'll be moving forward with the bill next week.

I'll wait your co-sponsor support.

Enjoy the weekend,
Derek

<image001.jpg>

From: Rep30
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 2:25 PM
To: Merrin, Derek <Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov>; Kasych, Shawn <Shawn.Kasych@ohiohouse.gov>; Myers, Marisa <marisa.myers@ohiohouse.gov>; Schuring, Kirk <Kirk.Schuring@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>; Wolf, Jimmy <Jimmy.Wolf@ohiohouse.gov>; Springhetti, Blake <Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: Please Review Draft - 15% Insurance

Derek,

Since we talked on this, someone in a position to know (and I forget who it was) explained to me that the dental vision and life premiums are already built into the medical insurance premium we already pay as state legislators under the state plan. If so (and that can easily be confirmed either with Kim Flasher in the House or with DAS), your bill would have us pay twice for the same coverage. As you know, I wasn't for this idea in the first place, but this would be another reason to oppose.

Moreover, I am far from certain that lines 147-156 get you where you want to go on collective bargaining ("seek to obtain" is a far cry from obtaining).

From: Merrin, Derek
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 10:02 AM
To: Kasych, Shawn <Shawn.Kasych@ohiohouse.gov>; Myers, Marisa <marisa.myers@ohiohouse.gov>; Seitz, Bill <Bill.Seitz@ohiohouse.gov>; Schuring, Kirk <Kirk.Schuring@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>; Wolf, Jimmy <Jimmy.Wolf@ohiohouse.gov>; Springhetti, Blake <Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Please Review Draft - 15% Insurance

Kirt, Bill, Marissa, and Shawn:

I've attached draft legislation that would require state employees, not covered by CBA, to pay the same % of their premium for dental, vision, and life insurance that they pay for medical insurance.

This would have employees effectively paying 15% of the premium for all insurance (medical, dental, vision, life).
Employees currently pay 15% only for medical insurance.

Also, language is contained that would instruct the state to bargain to have the same provision included in CBA's that cover union, state employees.

Although I've discussed this issue with you already, I'd appreciate it if you would review the language and let me know if you have any suggestions or concerns.

Thank you,
Derek Merrin

<image001.jpg>

<15% LSC Fiscal.pdf>

From: Merrin, Derek
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 12:19 PM
To: Kasych, Shawn
CC: Rep30; Myers, Marisa; Schuring, Kirk; Zielinski, Justin; Wolf, Jimmy; Springhetti, Blake
Subject: RE: Please Review Draft 15% Insurance

Shawn:

For exempt employees, it'd save about \$2.6 million annually, which is the number I'm focused on.

That's what we can immediately save and do legislatively.

If the state was able to negotiate similar provision in collective bargaining agreements with state employees, it would save an additional \$4.7 million annually.

Total savings would potentially be \$7.3 million annually. With insurance likely increasing, the savings would grow as well.

Also, I will be submitting my bill as a budget amendment.

All the best,
Derek



From: Kasych, Shawn
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 6:30 PM
To: Merrin, Derek <Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Rep30 <Rep30@ohiohouse.gov>; Myers, Marisa <marisa.myers@ohiohouse.gov>; Schuring, Kirk <Kirk.Schuring@ohiohouse.gov>; Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>; Wolf, Jimmy <Jimmy.Wolf@ohiohouse.gov>; Springhetti,

Blake <Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Re: Please Review Draft 15% Insurance

What's the total savings of this proposal to the state?

Shawn Kasych
Majority Policy Director
614.466.0863

On Mar 17, 2017, at 4:48 PM, Merrin, Derek <Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

Bill:

Thanks for the response. I do believe you are incorrect.

To verify, I've had LSC do additional research and complete a fiscal impact analysis.

Also, we've contacted Jason Parsons in the House for clarification.

Please see the attached LSC memo. I'll be moving forward with the bill next week.

I'll wait your co-sponsor support.

Enjoy the weekend,
Derek

<image001.jpg>

From: Rep30
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 2:25 PM
To: Merrin, Derek <Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov>; Kasych, Shawn <Shawn.Kasych@ohiohouse.gov>; Myers, Marisa <marisa.myers@ohiohouse.gov>; Schuring, Kirk <Kirk.Schuring@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>; Wolf, Jimmy <Jimmy.Wolf@ohiohouse.gov>; Springhetti, Blake <Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: Please Review Draft - 15% Insurance

Derek,

Since we talked on this, someone in a position to know (and I forget who it was) explained to me that the dental vision and life premiums are already built into the medical insurance premium we already pay as state legislators under the state plan. If so (and that can easily be confirmed either with Kim Flasher in the House or with DAS), your bill would have us pay twice for the same coverage. As you know, I wasn't for this idea in the first place, but this would be another reason to oppose.

Moreover, I am far from certain that lines 147-156 get you where you want to go on collective bargaining ("seek to obtain" is a far cry from obtaining).

From: Merrin, Derek
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 10:02 AM
To: Kasych, Shawn <Shawn.Kasych@ohiohouse.gov>; Myers, Marisa <marisa.myers@ohiohouse.gov>; Seitz, Bill <Bill.Seitz@ohiohouse.gov>; Schuring, Kirk <Kirk.Schuring@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>; Wolf, Jimmy <Jimmy.Wolf@ohiohouse.gov>; Springhetti, Blake <Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Please Review Draft - 15% Insurance

Kirt, Bill, Marissa, and Shawn:

I've attached draft legislation that would require state employees, not covered by CBA, to pay the same % of their premium for dental, vision, and life insurance that they pay for medical insurance.

This would have employees effectively paying 15% of the premium for all insurance (medical, dental, vision, life).
Employees currently pay 15% only for medical insurance.

Also, language is contained that would instruct the state to bargain to have the same provision included in CBA's that cover union, state employees.

Although I've discussed this issue with you already, I'd appreciate it if you would review the language and let me know if you have any suggestions or concerns.

Thank you,
Derek Merrin

<image001.jpg>

<15% LSC Fiscal.pdf>

From: Kasych, Shawn
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 12:50 PM
To: Merrin, Derek
CC: Rep30; Myers, Marisa; Schuring, Kirk; Zielinski, Justin; Wolf, Jimmy; Springhetti, Blake
Subject: Re: Please Review Draft 15% Insurance

Thanks Representative.

Shawn Kasych
Majority Policy Director
614.466.0863

On Mar 19, 2017, at 12:19 PM, Merrin, Derek <Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

Shawn:

For exempt employees, it'd save about \$2.6 million annually, which is the number I'm focused on.

That's what we can immediately save and do legislatively.

If the state was able to negotiate similar provision in collective bargaining agreements with state employees, it would save an additional \$4.7 million annually.

Total savings would potentially be \$7.3 million annually. With insurance likely increasing, the savings would grow as well.

Also, I will be submitting my bill as a budget amendment.

All the best,
Derek
<image001.jpg>

From: Kasych, Shawn
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 6:30 PM
To: Merrin, Derek <Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Rep30 <Rep30@ohiohouse.gov>; Myers, Marisa <marisa.myers@ohiohouse.gov>; Schuring, Kirk <Kirk.Schuring@ohiohouse.gov>; Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>; Wolf, Jimmy <Jimmy.Wolf@ohiohouse.gov>; Springhetti, Blake

<Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Re: Please Review Draft 15% Insurance

What's the total savings of this proposal to the state?

Shawn Kasych
Majority Policy Director
614.466.0863

On Mar 17, 2017, at 4:48 PM, Merrin, Derek

<Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

Bill:

Thanks for the response. I do believe you are incorrect.

To verify, I've had LSC do additional research and complete a fiscal impact analysis.

Also, we've contacted Jason Parsons in the House for clarification.

Please see the attached LSC memo. I'll be moving forward with the bill next week.

I'll wait your co-sponsor support.

Enjoy the weekend,
Derek

<image001.jpg>

From: Rep30

Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 2:25 PM

To: Merrin, Derek <Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov>; Kasych, Shawn <Shawn.Kasych@ohiohouse.gov>; Myers, Marisa <marisa.myers@ohiohouse.gov>; Schuring, Kirk <Kirk.Schuring@ohiohouse.gov>

Cc: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>; Wolf, Jimmy <Jimmy.Wolf@ohiohouse.gov>; Springhetti, Blake <Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: RE: Please Review Draft - 15% Insurance

Derek,

Since we talked on this, someone in a position to know (and I forget who it was) explained to me that the dental vision and life premiums are already built into the medical insurance premium we already pay as state legislators under the state plan. If so (and that can easily be confirmed either with Kim Flasher in the House or with DAS), your bill would have us pay twice for the same coverage. As you know, I wasn't for this idea in the first place, but this would be another reason to oppose.

Moreover, I am far from certain that lines 147-156 get you where you want to go on collective bargaining ("seek to obtain" is a far cry from obtaining).

From: Merrin, Derek

Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 10:02 AM

To: Kasych, Shawn <Shawn.Kasych@ohiohouse.gov>; Myers, Marisa <marisa.myers@ohiohouse.gov>; Seitz, Bill <Bill.Seitz@ohiohouse.gov>; Schuring, Kirk <Kirk.Schuring@ohiohouse.gov>

Cc: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>; Wolf, Jimmy <Jimmy.Wolf@ohiohouse.gov>; Springhetti, Blake <Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Please Review Draft - 15% Insurance

Kirt, Bill, Marissa, and Shawn:

I've attached draft legislation that would require state employees, not covered by CBA, to pay the same % of their premium for dental, vision, and life insurance that they pay for medical insurance.

This would have employees effectively paying 15% of the premium for all insurance (medical, dental, vision, life). Employees currently pay 15% only for medical insurance.

Also, language is contained that would instruct the state to bargain to have the same provision included in CBA's that cover union, state employees.

Although I've discussed this issue with you already, I'd appreciate it if you would review the language

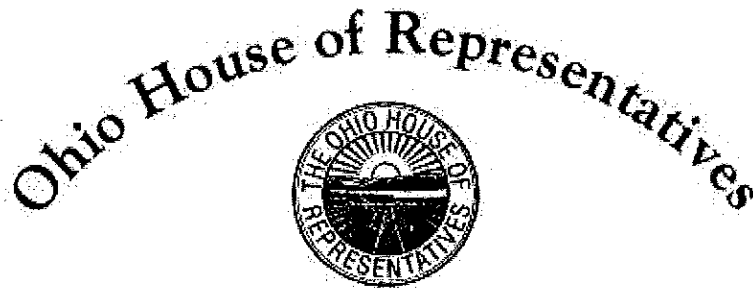
and let me know if you have any suggestions or concerns.

Thank you,
Derek Merrin

<image001.jpg>

<15% LSC Fiscal.pdf>

From: Springhetti, Blake
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 11:35 AM
To: House_All
Subject: Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and Life
Attachments: Co-Sponsor Request - Requiring Exempt State Employees to Pay Healthcare Premiums.pdf



Representative Derek Merrin

47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Derek Merrin
DATE: March 20, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance Premiums

I will be introducing legislation that requires exempt state employees to pay a portion of their dental, vision, and life insurance premiums. Exempt state employees currently pay 15% of their premium for medical insurance – while paying 0% of the premium for dental, vision, and life insurance coverage. This legislation requires exempt state employees pay the same percentage for dental, vision, and life coverage as they pay for their medical insurance premium.

Key Facts:

- By having exempt state employees pay 15% of their dental, vision, and life premiums, taxpayers would save at least \$2.6 million annually.
- Legislation would impact about 16,400 exempt state employees.
- Legislation directs the state to seek the same provision when negotiating collective bargaining agreements that cover about 35,900 unionized state employees, which would save taxpayers an additional \$4.7 million annually.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by **Tuesday, March 28 at 5:00 P.M.**

Sincerely,





Ohio House of Representatives

Representative Derek Merrin

47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Derek Merrin

DATE: March 20, 2017

RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance Premiums

I will be introducing legislation that requires exempt state employees to pay a portion of their dental, vision, and life insurance premiums. Exempt state employees currently pay 15% of their premium for medical insurance – while paying 0% of the premium for dental, vision, and life insurance coverage. This legislation requires exempt state employees pay the same percentage for dental, vision, and life coverage as they pay for their medical insurance premium.

Key Facts:

- By having exempt state employees pay 15% of their dental, vision, and life premiums, taxpayers would save at least \$2.6 million annually.
- Legislation would impact about 16,400 exempt state employees.
- Legislation directs the state to seek the same provision when negotiating collective bargaining agreements that cover about 35,900 unionized state employees, which would save taxpayers an additional \$4.7 million annually.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by **Tuesday, March 28 at 5:00 P.M.**

Sincerely,



Derek Merrin
Ohio House of Representatives
House District 47
Office (614) 466-1731
Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov
77 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

From: Springhetti, Blake
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 11:18 AM
To: House_All
Subject: Reminder: Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and Life
Attachments: Co-Sponsor Request - Requiring Exempt State Employees to Pay Healthcare Premiums.pdf

**Reminder: The deadline to co-sponsor is
tomorrow at 5pm**



Representative Derek Merrin
47th District
MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Derek Merrin
DATE: March 20, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental,
Vision, and Life
Insurance Premiums

I will be introducing legislation that requires exempt state employees to pay a portion of their dental, vision, and life insurance premiums. Exempt state employees currently pay 15% of their premium for medical insurance – while paying 0% of the premium for dental, vision, and life insurance coverage. This legislation requires exempt state employees pay the same percentage for dental, vision, and life coverage as they pay for their medical insurance premium.

Key Facts:

- By having exempt state employees pay 15% of their dental, vision, and life premiums, taxpayers would save at least \$2.6 million annually.
- Legislation would impact about 16,400 exempt state employees.
- Legislation directs the state to seek the same provision when negotiating collective bargaining agreements that cover about 35,900 unionized state employees, which would save taxpayers an additional \$4.7 million annually.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by Tuesday, March 28 at 5:00 P.M.

Sincerely,



Ohio House of Representatives



Representative Derek Merrin

47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Derek Merrin

DATE: March 20, 2017

RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Exempt State Employees Pay Portion of Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance Premiums

I will be introducing legislation that requires exempt state employees to pay a portion of their dental, vision, and life insurance premiums. Exempt state employees currently pay 15% of their premium for medical insurance – while paying 0% of the premium for dental, vision, and life insurance coverage. This legislation requires exempt state employees pay the same percentage for dental, vision, and life coverage as they pay for their medical insurance premium.

Key Facts:

- By having exempt state employees pay 15% of their dental, vision, and life premiums, taxpayers would save at least \$2.6 million annually.
- Legislation would impact about 16,400 exempt state employees.
- Legislation directs the state to seek the same provision when negotiating collective bargaining agreements that cover about 35,900 unionized state employees, which would save taxpayers an additional \$4.7 million annually.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by **Tuesday, March 28 at 5:00 P.M.**

Sincerely,



Derek Merrin
Ohio House of Representatives
House District 47
Office (614) 466-1731
Derek.Merrin@ohiohouse.gov
77 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

From: Springhetti, Blake
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 1:29 PM
To: House All
Subject: Co-Sponsor Request: Reduced Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees
Attachments: Co-Sponsor Request - Reducing Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees.pdf



Representative Derek Merrin
47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Derek Merrin
DATE: June 2, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Reduced Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees

I will soon introduce legislation to align public employees' sick day allotment with the standard allotment for state public employees.

State employees receive 10 sick days per year, while many local government employees receive an excessive 15 sick days per year (3 weeks). This legislation makes 10 sick days per year the standard across the board - impacting county, municipal, civil service township, school district, and university employees. This will help create fairness between state and local government employees. The bill contains a provision that restricts collective bargaining agreements from requiring local governments to provide more than the state mandated number of 10 sick days annually.

By forcing local governments/taxpayers to provide an excessive number of sick days, the state is driving-up local governments' costs. You will be hard pressed to find any private-

sector business that provides 15 sick days annually. Also, government employees receive additional, generous amounts of personal days and vacation leave. The legislature created this excessive mandate and it is time for us to fix it. Please join with me to support a reasonable standard and provide relief to our local governments.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by **Tuesday, June 13**.

Sincerely,
Derek Merrin

Ohio House of Representatives



Representative Derek Merrin
47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Derek Merrin
DATE: June 2, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Reduced Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees

I will soon introduce legislation to align public employees' sick day allotment with the standard allotment for state public employees.

State employees receive 10 sick days per year, while many local government employees receive an excessive 15 sick days per year (3 weeks). This legislation makes 10 sick days per year the standard across the board - impacting county, municipal, civil service township, school district, and university employees. This will help create fairness between state and local government employees. The bill contains a provision that restricts collective bargaining agreements from requiring local governments to provide more than the state mandated number of 10 sick days annually.

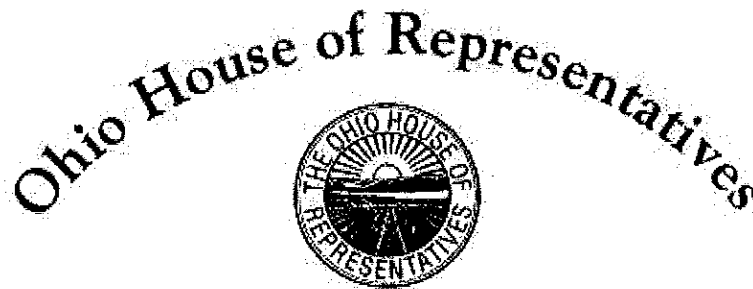
By forcing local governments/taxpayers to provide an excessive number of sick days, the state is driving-up local governments' costs. You will be hard pressed to find any private-sector business that provides 15 sick days annually. Also, government employees receive additional, generous amounts of personal days and vacation leave. The legislature created this excessive mandate and it is time for us to fix it. Please join with me to support a reasonable standard and provide relief to our local governments.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by **Tuesday, June 13.**

Sincerely,
Derek Merrin

From: Springhetti, Blake
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 2:32 PM
To: House All
Subject: EXTENDED: Co-Sponsor Request: Reduced Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees
Attachments: Co-Sponsor Request - Reducing Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees.pdf

The deadline to co-sponsor has been extended to **Tuesday, June 20 at 5pm!**



Representative Derek Merrin
47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Derek Merrin
DATE: June 13, 2017
RE: **EXTENDED: Co-Sponsor Request: Reduced Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees**

I will soon introduce legislation to align public employees' sick day allotment with the standard allotment for state public employees.

State employees receive 10 sick days per year, while many local government employees receive an excessive 15 sick days per year (3 weeks). This legislation makes 10 sick days per year the standard across the board - impacting county, municipal, civil service township, school district, and university employees. This will help create fairness between state and

local government employees. The bill contains a provision that restricts collective bargaining agreements from requiring local governments to provide more than the state mandated number of 10 sick days annually.

By forcing local governments/taxpayers to provide an excessive number of sick days, the state is driving-up local governments' costs. You will be hard pressed to find any private-sector business that provides 15 sick days annually. Also, government employees receive additional, generous amounts of personal days and vacation leave. The legislature created this excessive mandate and it is time for us to fix it. Please join with me to support a reasonable standard and provide relief to our local governments.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by **Tuesday, June 20 at 5pm.**

Sincerely,
Derek Merrin

Ohio House of Representatives



Representative Derek Merrin
47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Derek Merrin
DATE: June 13, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Reduced Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees

I will soon introduce legislation to align public employees' sick day allotment with the standard allotment for state public employees.

State employees receive 10 sick days per year, while many local government employees receive an excessive 15 sick days per year (3 weeks). This legislation makes 10 sick days per year the standard across the board - impacting county, municipal, civil service township, school district, and university employees. This will help create fairness between state and local government employees. The bill contains a provision that restricts collective bargaining agreements from requiring local governments to provide more than the state mandated number of 10 sick days annually.

By forcing local governments/taxpayers to provide an excessive number of sick days, the state is driving-up local governments' costs. You will be hard pressed to find any private-sector business that provides 15 sick days annually. Also, government employees receive additional, generous amounts of personal days and vacation leave. The legislature created this excessive mandate and it is time for us to fix it. Please join with me to support a reasonable standard and provide relief to our local governments.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by **Tuesday, June 20 at 5pm.**

Sincerely,
Derek Merrin

From: NCSL TODAY

Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2017 10:42 AM

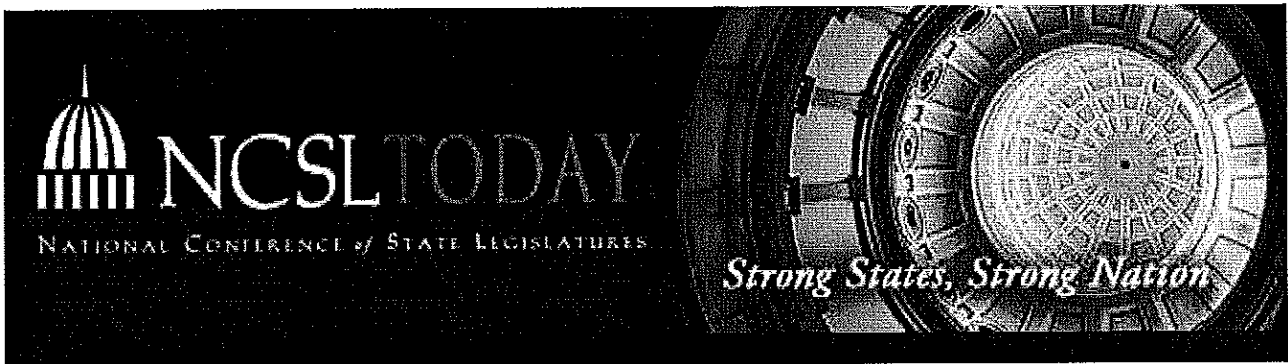
To: Zielinski, Justin

Subject: State election officials fear feds are making security worse

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)

NCSL Today | Manage your subscription



TOP NEWS July 13, 2017

State election officials fear feds are making security worse

Governing

Secretaries of state are concerned about not just the federal government's request for voter information but also the information they're not getting about election security breaches.

U.S. appeals court upholds Wisconsin's right-to-work law

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

A federal appeals court on Wednesday upheld Wisconsin's law that bars collective bargaining agreements requiring workers to pay union fees.

Five states face budget uncertainty in new fiscal year

Reuters

Connecticut, Wisconsin and Rhode Island's legislatures have not yet passed a budget, while Massachusetts' budget awaits action from state Governor Charlie Baker to either sign or veto it. **NCSL's Erica MacKeller** quoted.

Medical pot industry wants in on soaring pot sales

The Chicago Tribune

Sales of products containing CBD, or cannabidiol, increased 30 percent to \$262 million nationwide last year, according to the Hemp Business Journal. By



FEATURED

Commentator/pollster Frank Luntz featured speaker at Legislative Summit

Frank Luntz is one of the nation's foremost political commentators and pollsters. Known as the Focus Group Czar, he captures the attitudes of American voters on politics, policies and the direction of the country. He will speak during Tuesday's general session

NEW ON NCSL

2020, the industry trade journal projects that figure to leap to more than \$1 billion, with most of those sales from hemp, not medical marijuana. **NCSL research cited.**

California lawmakers delay climate vote amid push for affordable housing

The Los Angeles Times

While conversations over climate change have dominated recent debate at the Capitol, California lawmakers are accelerating bills to address the state's housing affordability crisis, and may vote on a series of measures before they break for summer recess next Friday.

State lotteries fight 'jackpot fatigue,' casino competition

Stateline

With lottery proceeds flat or declining, and states reluctant to raise taxes to make up the difference, pressure is mounting to keep players playing and money rolling in.

Capitol to Capitol state-federal newsletter

Friday webinar: Cybertechnology and the law

The Canvass elections newsletter



States tackling 'balance billing' issue

The practice of a provider billing a patient for the difference between what they received in reimbursement from an insurance carrier and what they actually charge for their services is known as balance billing, or a surprise bill, and it's not uncommon.



© National Conference of State Legislatures
Denver: 303-364-7700
Washington: 202-624-5400

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2017 5:56 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, August 7, 2017
Attachments: Aug7House.htm; 170807dayplan.htm; Aug7.htm; Aug7Senate.htm

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please unsubscribe

| | |
|---|---|
| OHIO REPORT | View in a browser |
| GONGWER <small>SINCE 1906</small> <small>OHIO'S HOME FOR POLICY & POLITICS</small> | News Bill Tracking Legislation |

OHIO REPORT MONDAY, AUGUST 7

Collective Bargaining Consultant Contract Gets Controlling Board Approval

Seitz Plans To Push For Passage Of Death Penalty Exemption Bill This Fall

Supporters Hope Palliative Care Measure Gains Traction After Recess

Long-Awaited Federal Study To Protect Great Lakes From Asian Carp Released

Environmental Groups Question Rover Excuses For Fuel In Wetland Spills

Tavares Bill Aimed At Gender Pay Gap; Schiavoni Targets Charter Overpayments; Renacci, Pillich Announce Endorsements...

Casino, Racino Revenue Up Big In July

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

ACTIVITY REPORTS

House

Senate

CALENDARS

Day Planner

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

[View as a Web Page](#)

Copyright 2017, Gongwer News Service/Ohio

17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)



House Activity for Monday, August 7, 2017

INTRODUCED

HB 315 ■ **DAY DESIGNATION** (Arndt, S.) To designate October 6 as "S.M.A.R.T. Parent Day." En. 5.257

HB 316 ■ **PICNIC AREA NAMING** (Arndt, S., Stein, D.) To designate a picnic area in Kelleys Island State Park as the "Henry T. Beatty Memorial Picnic Area." Am. 1546.30

HB 317 ■ **TAX DEDUCTION** (Young, R.) To authorize, for six years, a personal income tax deduction for a physician based on the number of hours the physician provides uncompensated medical services through a hospital, free clinic, or nongovernmental medical organization. Am. 5747.01 and to enact section 5747.014

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Finance: Remove Representative Faber

Finance Subcommittee on State Government and Agency Review: Remove Representative Faber.

Public Utilities: Remove Representative Faber; appoint Representative Stein

Aging and Long Term Care: Appoint Representative Brown.

Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security: Appoint Representative Brown.

Civil Justice: Remove Representative Sykes; appoint Representative Brown.

State and Local Government: Appoint Representative Brown.

Power Siting Board: Remove Representative Hagan; appoint Representative Carfagna

New African Immigrants Commission: Kefa Otiso and Beatrice Miringu

Ohio Public Works Commission: Dean Ringle

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger,
Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, August 8

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Appeals, ODOT District Three Office, 906 Clark Ave., Ashland, 8:30 a.m.

Third Frontier Commission, Rev1 Ventures, 1275 Kinnear Rd., Columbus, 10 a.m.
House Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, Netzley Room, Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Event Planner

National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit, Boston
Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) and Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) fundraiser, Mike and Samantha Hartley residence, 403 South Court Street, Circleville, 6 p.m., (\$1,000 Chair | \$500 Sponsor | \$250 Host | \$100 Supporter | \$75 per Couple | \$50 Individual to Peterson for Good Government and Troy Balderson for State Senator)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Volume #86, Report #151 -- Monday, August 7, 2017

Collective Bargaining Consultant Contract Gets Controlling Board Approval

Controlling Board members on Monday approved a new contract for a Columbus law firm to do consulting work on collective bargaining issues after lawmakers asked about the job and procurement process for the contract.

Without objection, the board approved the \$480,000 contract between the Department of Administrative Services and Baker Hostetler, LLP. The firm will provide labor relations and collective bargaining consulting and negotiation services.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) asked if the state was developing the internal capacity to handle labor issues and contracts without having to pay outside help.

Jennifer Leymaster, chief financial officer for DAS, said negotiations for large contracts often require outside assistance.

"It is customary for us to seek outside consulting services when doing the negotiation for these major contracts, as I believe is customary for organizations of our size," she said.

Kristen Rankin, deputy director for the DAS Office of Collective Bargaining, said the work fluctuates year-to-year as different contracts come up for renewal.

She said the state has been working with Baker Hostetler since 2014 and the firm has a good understanding of the state's labor relations.

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) asked about the increase in the value of the contract this year, up from about \$300,000 last year.

Ms. Rankin said the state is entering negotiations with its largest union this year, meaning there will be more work ahead.

The board also approved several contracts from the treasurer's office after Sen. Tavares asked for the reasoning behind waiving competitive selection.

Deputy Treasurer Seth Metcalf said all of the items were continuations of ongoing projects. In one case, the office did receive another bid, but it was significantly higher than the bid by the existing contract. That project involves custom-built software designed by the current contractor.

"We suspect that the additional bid was very high because the learning curve for a new provider would have been significant," he said.

The board approved a request for more than \$8.3 million over two years from DAS for a contract for postage funds. Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) asked if other firms, such as Stamps.com, might be able to offer the state better rates.

Ms. Leymaster said firms like Stamps.com might not be able to handle the volume of mail the state sends out, but that DAS would look into it.

The board accepted a transfer of \$2.2 million from the Emergency Management Agency into its emergency fund, repaying the final payment of the money used to reimburse states that sent law enforcement to help at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland last year. The EMA said it has received reimbursement from Cleveland for all of the 18 states that assisted.

A request for \$605,961 from the Department of Developmental Disabilities to improve the fire alarm system at Cambridge Developmental Center was deferred.

Other items approved by the board included: (Agenda)

- \$534,000 - Central State University - for a library structural repair and modernization project.
- \$3.2 million - Clark State Community College - for renovation of Rhodes Hall.
- \$2.4 million - Columbus State Community College - for the Culinary and Hospitality School building project.
- \$226,275 - Department of Health - to purchase cystic fibrosis test kits.
- \$374,400 - Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services - for a contract for forensic psychiatric services at Summit Behavioral Healthcare in Cincinnati.
- \$1.2 million - Department of Developmental Disabilities - to contract with various providers for early intervention hearing services for children.
- \$1.1 million - Department of Natural Resources - for a contract amendment to provide construction administration and material testing at Buckeye Lake Dam.
- \$5.3 million - ODNR - to contract for improvements at a variety of state parks.
- \$749,510 - Department of Rehabilitation and Correction - to replace the roof at the Corrections Training Academy in Orient.
- \$53.6 million - Department of Transportation - for contracts with 52 consulting firms for a variety of services.

- \$212,154 - Bureau of Workers' Compensation - to renew a contract for IT services analyzing business processes.

Seitz Plans To Push For Passage Of Death Penalty Exemption Bill This Fall

The sponsor of a bill to exempt the seriously mentally ill from the death penalty expects the measure to move in the fall.

The legislation (HB 81⁰⁰) would exempt from the death penalty those diagnosed with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder or delusional disorder at the time a capital offense was committed.



Bill Seitz

"I'm raring and ready to go as soon as we get back to try and move this forward in the House," sponsoring Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) said in an interview.

The bill has had three hearings in the House Criminal Justice Committee. Rep. Seitz said he was ready to move the measure prior to lawmakers leaving town for summer vacations, but he was told to hold off.

"We were really ready to go at the end of session back a month ago, but they wanted to keep controversial things off the radar screen as we focused all of our attention on the conference committee process and budget overrides and things like that," he said.

Chairman Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) expressed uncertainty about the fate of the bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 4, 2017)

But Rep. Seitz said he is confident about the bill's prospects in the upper chamber.

"All I can tell Senator Bacon is that when I had the bill the last time in that chamber, there were 31 of 33 senators ready to vote for it. Maybe he hasn't started counting noses yet," he said, adding that the two opponents of the last version of the bill are now serving in the House.

The bill has run into stiff opposition from the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association. Executive Director John Murphy has said that current law already provides those suffering from mental illness with the opportunity to be deemed incompetent to stand trial or mount a not guilty by reasons of insanity defense. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 6, 2017)

Despite the opposition, Rep. Seitz does not believe the OPAA will be able to sink the bill.

"It's got an awful lot of support and the only people that have come out against it are the prosecutors and their reasoning doesn't satisfy me," he said. "They were opposed to it the last time on the same basis."

Given the state's recent resumption of the death penalty, Rep. Seitz believes the bill will gain even more traction. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 26, 2017)

"I think with all the recent furor over the resumption of executions in Ohio people ought to at least recognize this for progress in terms of narrowing the range of cases in which the death penalty may be imposed," he said.

The legislation is based off of one of several recommendations made by the Ohio Supreme Court's Joint Task Force to Review the Administration of Ohio's Death Penalty.

"The bottom line is this was a central recommendation of the death penalty task force," Rep. Seitz said.

Supporters Hope Palliative Care Measure Gains Traction After Recess

Legislation first offered last year and introduced again in June intends to increase awareness and access to palliative care for patients with serious health conditions.

The bill (HB 286), sponsored by Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls), would establish a state council to oversee palliative care and create programs to raise awareness and utilization of the approach.



Rep. LaTourette

It's a personal issue for the sponsor. Her father, former U.S. Rep. Steve LaTourette, received palliative care before his death last year from pancreatic cancer. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 7, 2017)

"I saw the dramatic difference that access to early palliative care had on his life and our lives," Rep. LaTourette said in an interview. "I want everybody in the state to be aware that palliative care is not just hospice care."

Rep. LaTourette first introduced the measure (HB603, 131st General Assembly) toward the end of the last General Assembly. It received a hearing before the House Health and Aging Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 26, 2016)

The new version of the bill retains almost all of that proposal's components but does not include provisions that would levy fees or fines on hospitals that don't comply, she said. That has eased some concerns from industry groups, she said.

The move toward expanding the reach of palliative care is a priority for advocacy groups such as the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, who included the practice on their annual report card for state cancer policies. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 4, 2017)

Jeff Stephens, ACS CAN's state government relations director for Ohio, said the group is also working on similar legislation at the federal level.

"It's a form of treatment that's been proven to increase health outcomes at a reduced overall health care cost. It works," he said.

The bill would create an interdisciplinary advisory council at the Department of Health and create a set of criteria to identify patients who are best suited to the care approach.

"We do a pretty OK job of offering it in Ohio but we need to build the pipeline of professionals who are coming into to this treatment and we need to educate patients about what palliative care is," he said.

Mr. Stephens said it's important for providers to consider how different palliative care can look in different parts of the state. While it typically includes the treating doctor, a pharmacist, social workers, spiritual leaders and others who surround the patient with support, that team could look different in rural areas than it would in cities with access to wide varieties of professionals.

"We're all very hopeful there's going to be movement on that this fall," he said.

The proposal hasn't yet been assigned to a committee, but Rep. LaTourette said it will probably go through the House Aging and Long-Term Care Committee.

"My hope is that shortly after we come back for the fall that we start moving quickly," she said.

Long-Awaited Federal Study To Protect Great Lakes From Asian Carp Released

A long-delayed federal plan to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes was released Monday after months of prodding from congressional delegates in Ohio and other states.

The report from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spells out \$275 million in proposals to upgrade the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Illinois in order to shield the lakes from the invasive species.

Ideas in the report include electric barriers, flushing locks, water jets, and complex noise generation. If approved, the project has an estimated completion date of 2025, according to the report. Critics have argued the plan could impede commercial traffic in the region.

The 488-page report was originally slated for release in February, but was delayed by the Trump Administration. Democrats have contended that the decision to delay the report was political in nature. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 1, 2017)

"It is encouraging to see that the U.S. Army Corps' recommendations include serious measures to deal with this invasive species," U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) said in a statement. "Now that we have real information on costs we can move on and receive input from stakeholders, whose livelihoods depend on us keeping the Asian carp out of the Lakes."

Both she and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) earlier this year introduced standalone legislation that would have forced the Trump Administration to make the study public. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 23, 2017)

"We are now one step closer to taking action to protect our Great Lakes from Asian carp," Sen. Brown said, "and I look forward to working with Sen. Portman and my other Great Lakes colleagues to turn this report into concrete actions that will benefit our Lakes."

The discovery of an Asian carp in June just nine miles from Lake Michigan added new urgency to the matter. It also prompted state officials to enter the fray, with Attorney General Mike DeWine writing late last month to the Department of the Army and saying the delay "in the face of this immediate threat is unacceptable." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 30, 2017)

There will now be a 45-day public review period for the draft report, ending Sept. 21. Comments will be accepted online, by letter and at public meetings yet to be scheduled.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) said the lakes and the local economies they support must be protected.

"The Great Lakes support a \$7 billion fishing industry and Lake Erie contributes more than \$10 billion to Ohio's tourism industry, both of which would be jeopardized if Asian Carp were allowed into the Great Lakes," he said. "It is important that the Corps remain on schedule to finalize the plan by January of 2019, and I look forward to working with stakeholders and the Corps to do just that."

Environmental groups praised the release, with the Alliance for the Great Lakes, the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council and several other groups issuing a joint statement.

"We look forward to reviewing the findings in detail and to continuing the conversation on this critical issue with elected officials and concerned citizens during the public comment period," the groups said. "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must listen carefully to public input on the study and then move quickly from study to implementation of additional protection measures at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam, a logical choke point in the system."

The Ohio Conservation Federation and its counterparts from Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin issued a similar joint statement.

"After months of unnecessary delay, we are excited that the potential options for improving defenses against Asian carp at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam will see the light of day," they said. "There is still much work yet to be done in this process. We look forward to working towards securing stronger protections to keep Asian carp out of our Great Lakes."

Environmental Groups Question Rover Excuses For Fuel In Wetland Spills

The company behind the Rover Pipeline project told federal regulators it believes it's possible traces of diesel fuel found in wetland spills earlier this year were planted by "malicious" opponents.

But environmental groups say the company is attempting to divert attention from Rover's actions and that increased security around the spill sites - by both the company and state regulators who were investigating the spills - renders the idea of sabotage "farfetched."

It's the latest back and forth between Rover Pipeline LLC, its parent Energy Transfer Partners, and advocates urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to halt construction of the 700-mile pipeline that has been at the center of controversy for months.

In its most recent filing (PDF) before FERC, the company for the first time agreed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's assessment that diesel fuel was present in millions of gallons of drilling mud spilled into Ohio wetlands at several sites earlier this year. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 2, 2017)

But Rover stopped short of accepting the blame, saying it "has no evidence that the diesel was the result of a spill or failed containment" experienced during its horizontal drilling and construction activity.

"This data alone, however, does not demonstrate that diesel fluid (or other petroleum hydrocarbons) entered the slurry as part of the HDD process or that there was a widespread impact," the company wrote.

"Rover theorizes that these diesel concentrations could have been caused by an inadvertent and unreported spill or leak from equipment operating during the clean-

up...or it could have been the deliberate or malicious act of individuals opposed to the project," the company continued. "Given the extensive inspection and oversight at this and other sites along the project, it is difficult to imagine that this occurred from an unreported spill or leak."

Cheryl Johncox of the Sierra Club's Beyond Dirty Fuels Campaign rejected that claim. She said in an interview that OEPA testing revealed fuel traces at several different sites.

"It's very unlikely somebody trying to sabotage the project would know where those sampling locations were," she said. "The other thing of note is this occurred on private property...(and) they were very actively patrolling that spill site and keeping people off. It's very unlikely somebody was able to access that area in order to sabotage the project."

Heather Taylor-Miesle, executive director of the Ohio Environmental Council, said the company's claims are the latest demonstration of the company's "lack of respect for Ohioans and our environment."

"Claiming they were sabotaged or framed without any evidence whatsoever is merely another attempt for Rover to deflect blame and avoid owning up to the consequences of their actions," she said. "We are taught in kindergarten to clean up after ourselves, and Rover should remember this important childhood lesson."

Regardless of how the fuel entered the slurry, the company said it is "deeply troubled by any of these potential scenarios and has taken steps to address these possible sources."

Those steps include reiterating to employees and contractors that all construction must adhere to the FERC certificate and other spill prevention and response procedures. Additionally, it will remind workers that secondary containment must be used for equipment working in or near wetlands and bodies of water and prompt notification is required for spills of hazardous materials.

In the event an outside agent introduced fuel to the situation, the company said it has increased security to oversee the Tuscarawas site and has "increased scrutiny of all personnel entering and leaving all HDD sites."

The filing comes one week after Kelcy Warren, CEO of Energy Transfer Partners, which is Rover's parent company, told federal lawmakers he was "baffled" by criticism of the company and allegations of rule violations from regulators and congressional Democrats following the spills.

Tavares Bill Aimed At Gender Pay Gap; Schiavoni Targets Charter Overpayments; Renacci, Pillich Announce Endorsements...

Equal pay and charter school funding are the subjects of hot-button measures recently introduced by two Democratic lawmakers.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) is behind legislation (SB 174) she dubbed the "Fair and Acceptable Income Required Act."

"It is shameful that in this day and age women in Ohio make only 78 cents for every dollar made by a man. Without question, equal work deserves equal pay," she said in a release announcing the bill. "At a time when women are increasingly responsible for the economic security of their families, it is absolutely critical to ensure that they earn a wage commensurate with their work - and on par with a man's."

The bill would require employers to substantiate pay differences, prohibit retaliation against workers who discuss salaries with colleagues and bar wage discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"While the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 improved some laws that govern pay discrimination, more must be done to close the wage gap and increase the economic security of women," Sen. Tavares said. "Fair pay would help close the wage gap and increase women's economic security."

Charter Overpayments: A gubernatorial candidate meanwhile is touting a measure to require all money recovered from overpayments to charter schools to be returned to district from which it was deducted. It comes on the heels of the state's plans to claw back funding from the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow over inflated enrollment data.

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) said his legislation is expected to be introduced this week.

"Ohio schools are struggling to manage after several years of cuts to their funding. It's only right that the state should return all money taken from these schools in error," he said. "This bill is simple: it creates a uniform rule that all money overpaid to charter schools is sent back to the affected school districts."

Endorsements Announced: Other gubernatorial candidates continue to rack up endorsements.

U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci (R-Alliance) announced the backing of Julie Prince in his bid to replace Gov. John Kasich. She directed Ohio operations and grassroots for Ted Cruz's 2016 presidential campaign.

"In the 2018 gubernatorial race, there is one clear choice for conservatives across Ohio, and that choice is Jim Renacci. Time and again Jim has demonstrated his unyielding commitment to the conservative reforms we need, but which entrenched Columbus insiders have failed to deliver," she said. "Jim is not afraid to take on the establishment or the career politicians who continue to pay lip service to conservatism while perpetuating the status quo."

Added Rep. Renacci: "In her position as the Grassroots and Operations Director for Ted Cruz's presidential campaign in Ohio, Julie played an instrumental role in advancing the

causes of conservatism and liberty - not just for our state, but for our nation as a whole. I am proud to serve as a voice for conservatives across Ohio in this critically important election, and I am committed to delivering the conservative agenda and reforms we so badly need as our state's next governor."

Meanwhile, former Rep. Connie Pillich announced that she has the support of the Cincinnati Building Trades in her Democratic primary contest.

"Connie Pillich is the proven fighter we need as our next governor. Born in the shadow of a steel mill, Connie knows what we face every day," Cincinnati Building Trades Executive Secretary Fred Lampe said. "She has an unrivaled record of standing up for working families, higher wages, and working to create good jobs. Connie has proven herself as the Democratic frontrunner in the race for governor and the Cincinnati Building Trades is proud to have her back."

Added Ms. Pillich: "I'm proud to be endorsed by the Cincinnati Building Trades because I'll never stop fighting for working families, good jobs, and better wages for workers. With the wind at our backs, our people-powered campaign is building more momentum everyday as we work to take Columbus back from the special interests."

Husted Appointment: Secretary of State Jon Husted announced the appointment of Marcella R. Bogenrife to the Madison County Board of Elections.

She was recommended for the post by the Madison County Republican Party Executive Committee.

Casino, Racino Revenue Up Big In July

The state's four casinos showed significant gains in revenue last month compared to June, and the racinos also saw a big uptick in what they took home.

The casinos brought in \$69.9 million in July, up from \$64.1 million the prior month and from \$66.1 million in July 2016, according to revenue reports released Monday by the Casino Control Commission.

Video lottery terminal revenue at the seven racinos totaled \$84.5 million for the first month of the fiscal year, up nearly \$6.5 million from where it was in June, the Ohio Lottery Commission reported.

Hollywood Columbus brought in the most money among casinos at \$18.9 million. That was up from \$17.7 million in June and just a bit above the \$18.6 million it brought in the previous July. The casino was highly dependent on slot machine revenue, with that accounting for \$13.5 million.

Hollywood Toledo also saw a big boost, rising to \$17.6 million from \$16.1 million the prior month. It was up more than \$1 million from \$16.5 million in July 2016. Like its sister

casino in Columbus, the Toledo location leaned heavily on slot machines, to the tune of \$14.8 million.

JACK Cleveland raked in \$16.9 million, up from \$15 million in June and \$15.5 million the previous July. The casino was the most balanced between slots and table games, with slots accounting for \$9.1 million and table games \$7.7 million.

JACK Cincinnati brought in \$16.7 million, up from \$15.4 million both in June and in July 2016. Slot machines accounted for \$10.7 million of the casino's take.

Racinos: Among the state's racinos, Hard Rock Racino-Northfield Park saw the largest gain from June to July, up \$2.7 million to \$22.3 million in revenue from VLT machines.

Scioto Downs was the second-biggest gainer, up \$1.25 million to \$14.25 million in July.

Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway was up \$643,130 to \$8.3 million, while JACK Thistledown was up \$605,814 to \$10.1 million.

Belterra Park's revenue was up \$529,680 over June's at \$7.4 million. Revenue at Miami Valley Gaming was up \$428,657 to \$12.4 million, and Hollywood Gaming Mahoning Valley Race Course gained \$300,155 to \$9.8 million.

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Supplemental Agency Calendar Wednesday, August 9

State Emergency Response Commission, 2855 West Dublin-Granville Rd., Columbus, 1:15 p.m.

Supplemental Event Planner Monday, August 21

OHROC Lake Erie Boat Cruise and Reception with Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Fremont), Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, 5:30 p.m., (5:30pm Arrive at Catawba Island Club; 6:00pm Depart on Burger Yacht "Gemini"; 8:00pm Reception. Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to OHROC)

Sunday, August 27

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) shooting fundraiser, Nagle Trucking, 4520 Moline-Martin Road, Walbridge, 1:30 p.m., (Expert: \$250; Sharpshooter: \$100 to Citizens for Gavarone)
Wednesday, September 13

Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Romanchuk for State Rep)
Friday, September 15

Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Tamarac Golf Course, 500 N. Stevick Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$500; Foursome: \$400; Green Sponsor: \$350; Lunch Sponsor: \$250; Individual Golfer: \$125 to Cupp for State Representative Committee)
Wednesday, October 11


Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)
Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)
Wednesday, November 29

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Senate Activity for Monday, August 7, 2017

INTRODUCED

SB 175 ■ **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Schiavoni, J.)** Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. Am. 3314.52

SB 176 ■ **MUNICIPAL TAXES (Jordan, K.)** To prohibit municipal corporations from levying an income tax on nonresidents' compensation for personal services or on net profits from a sole proprietorship owned by a nonresident. Am. 709.023, 718.01, 718.02, 718.03, 718.04, 718.05, and 718.16 and to repeal sections 718.011 and 718.50

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation: Appoint Senator Joe Uecker and Senator Sean O'Brien

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

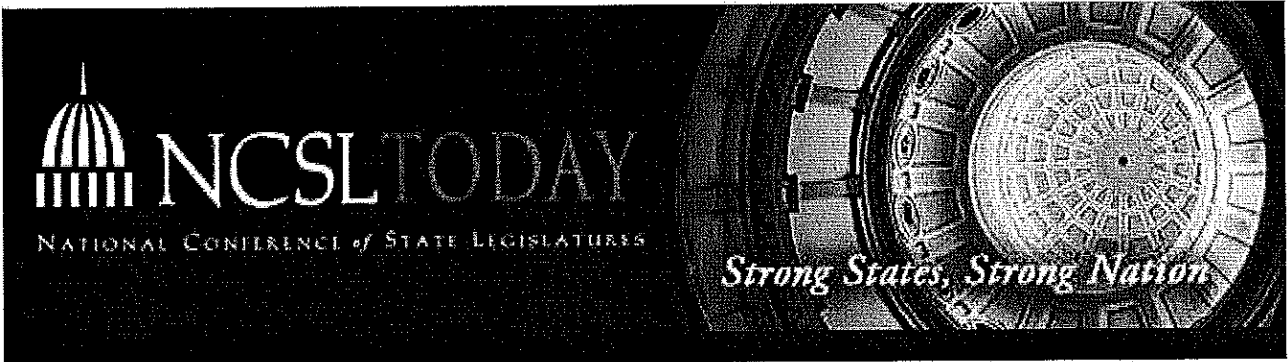
Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

From: NCSL TODAY
Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2017 10:46 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Russian hacking fuels return to paper ballots

NCSL Today | [Manage your subscription](#)



TOP NEWS Oct. 3, 2017

Russian hacking fuels return to paper ballots

Stateline

= A

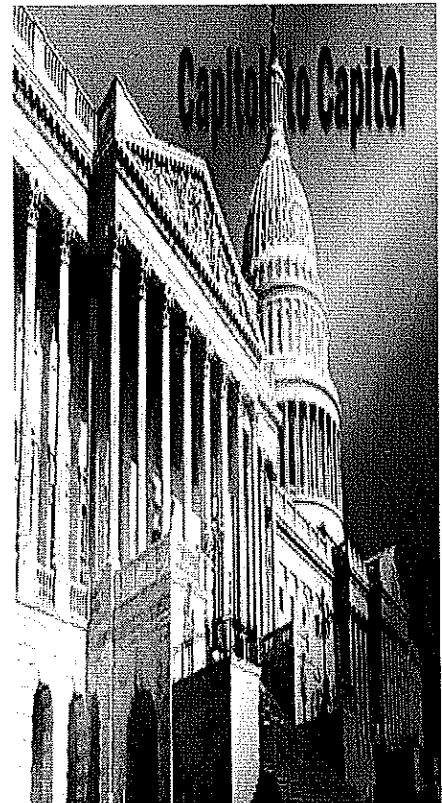
After Russian hackers targeted state voting systems last year, some officials are renewing their focus on switching to paper ballots, which they say are more secure and leave an audit trail. **NCSL consultant Katy Owens Hubler** quoted.

Mass shooting rekindles gun debate

The Hill

The national debate over gun violence was rekindled Monday after a gunman in Las Vegas opened fire on an outdoor concert crowd, killing at least 59 and wounding or injuring more than 500 others.

= A



Government jobs sprouting as legal pot looms in California

Associated Press

The state is on a hiring binge to fill what eventually will be hundreds of new government positions by 2019 intended to bring order to the legal pot economy, from keeping watch on what's seeping into streams near cannabis grows to running background checks on storefront sellers who want government licenses.

Arkansas spending for Medicaid rises

Arkansas Online

Driven by enrollment that surged past expectations, spending on Arkansas' expanded Medicaid program grew by almost 24 percent during the fiscal year that ended June 30, surpassing what state officials initially projected by about \$200 million.

Stagnant farm economy slows growth in Iowa, Nebraska

The Des Moines Register

A stagnant farm economy that has slowed Nebraska and Iowa's income growth to the lowest levels in the nation is also contributing to state budget problems that could linger through next year, officials said.

How hurricane responders track people whose lives depend on power

Stateline

For people who rely on electricity-dependent machines to maintain their health, power outages are more than a

Capitol to Capitol: Congress shifts to tax reform

On Sept. 27, President Donald Trump and the "Big Six"—which includes Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas), Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn—released their "unified framework" for overhauling the U.S. tax code.

NEW @ NCSL

Allowing purchases of out-of-state health insurance

Register now for the NCSL Capitol Forum Dec. 10-13 in Coronado, Calif.

Financing clean energy projects through property assessments





BLOG

frustration. State and local emergency managers are using data to keep them safe.

Supreme Court to hear public sector union dues case (again)

In 2016 the U.S. Supreme Court was expected to overrule a nearly 40-year-old precedent requiring public sector employees who don't join the union to pay their "fair share" of collective bargaining costs.

= A



© National Conference of State Legislatures
Denver: 303-364-7700
Washington: 202-624-5400

= A

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: We Are Ohio
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 4:02 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Say No To Anti-Worker Legislation

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



= A

December 19, 2017

Dear Speaker Pro Tempore Schuring,

As Chairman of We Are Ohio, I am writing to ask you not to sign on as a co-sponsor to Representative John Becker's anti-worker legislation and to oppose Rep. Becker's efforts to hurt working families in your district and across Ohio.

Rep. Becker, we believe, is pursuing an anti-worker agenda pushed by out-of-state interests like the Koch brothers, Americans for Prosperity and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

He has outlined six separate constitutional amendments that are all designed to hurt workers, lower wages, decrease safety in the workplace and cause further economic insecurity for the people that you serve.

= 9 On behalf of We Are Ohio, I'm asking you to stand for workers in your district and our state and to stand against these out-of-state parties. I'm sure you would agree that Ohio elected officials should represent the people of Ohio, not out of state interests.

We Are Ohio was formed in 2011 when a similar threat to workers' security was passed by the Ohio General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Kasich. We asked the citizens to veto Senate Bill 5 that year and restore collective bargaining rights to public sector employees, and they responded with historic numbers.

Nearly 1.3 million Ohioans signed petitions to put the citizens veto on the ballot, 17,000 Ohioans volunteered for the campaign and, on Election Day, 2.1 million Ohioans voted to veto Senate Bill 5 by a 62-38 margin.


We Are Ohio has remained a force since then. We have held meetings all across the state, have a huge online presence and maintain a database and email list of nearly 1 million voters who agreed with us in 2011.

We believe that the prudent course here is for the legislature to steer away from any anti-worker laws, amendments or ballot initiatives and we ask for your support.

Governor Kasich has acknowledged that such legislation does not attract business to our great state.

I'm respectfully asking you to tell Representative Becker that his ideas are harmful and divisive and that we don't want history to repeat itself.

Sincerely,



= 9 Christopher Mabe
Chairman - We Are Ohio

We Are Ohio

545 E. Town St.

Columbus, OH 43215

= A

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please [unsubscribe](#).

From: Zielinski, Justin
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 4:05 PM
To: Rep48
Subject: FW: Say No To Anti-Worker Legislation

From: We Are Ohio [mailto:bounce@bounce.myngp.com] **On Behalf Of** We Are Ohio
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 4:02 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Say No To Anti-Worker Legislation

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



December 19, 2017

Dear Speaker Pro Tempore Schuring,

As Chairman of We Are Ohio, I am writing to ask you not to sign on as a co-sponsor to Representative John Becker's anti-worker legislation and to oppose Rep. Becker's efforts to hurt working families in your district and across Ohio.

Rep. Becker, we believe, is pursuing an anti-worker agenda pushed by out-of-state interests like the Koch brothers, Americans for Prosperity and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

He has outlined six separate constitutional amendments that are all designed to hurt workers, lower wages, decrease safety in the workplace and cause further economic insecurity for the people that you serve.

On behalf of We Are Ohio, I'm asking you to stand for workers in your district and our state and to stand against these out-of-state parties. I'm sure you would agree that Ohio elected officials should represent the people of Ohio, not out of state interests.

We Are Ohio was formed in 2011 when a similar threat to workers' security was passed by the Ohio General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Kasich. We asked the citizens to veto Senate Bill 5 that year and restore collective bargaining rights to public sector employees, and they responded with historic numbers.

Nearly 1.3 million Ohioans signed petitions to put the citizens veto on the ballot, 17,000 Ohioans volunteered for the campaign and, on Election Day, 2.1 million Ohioans voted to veto Senate Bill 5 by a 62-38 margin.

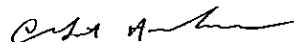
We Are Ohio has remained a force since then. We have held meetings all across the state, have a huge online presence and maintain a database and email list of nearly 1 million voters who agreed with us in 2011.

We believe that the prudent course here is for the legislature to steer away from any anti-worker laws, amendments or ballot initiatives and we ask for your support.

Governor Kasich has acknowledged that such legislation does not attract business to our great state.

I'm respectfully asking you to tell Representative Becker that his ideas are harmful and divisive and that we don't want history to repeat itself.

Sincerely,



Christopher Mabe
Chairman - We Are Ohio

We Are Ohio
545 E. Town St.
Columbus, OH 43215

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please [unsubscribe](#).

From: gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service
[gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 12:00 PM
To: Standard_Subscriber_misc_html@gongwer-oh.com
Subject: House & Senate Floor Reports

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please unsubscribe

[View in a browser](#)

GONGWER
SINCE 1906
OHIO'S HOME FOR POLICY & POLITICS

**News
Bill Tracking
Legislation**

HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

HJR 7

UNION MEMBERSHIP (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)
Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of public sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember public sector employees in employment-related matters.

HJR 8**UNION MEMBERSHIP (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of private sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember private sector employees in employment-related matters.

HJR 9**PREVAILING WAGE (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 43 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor on a public improvement to pay the contractor's workers the prevailing rate of wages for work performed on the public improvement.

HJR 10**PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 2 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit certain requirements or prohibitions regarding labor agreements in government contracts.

HJR 11**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative.

HJR 12**UNION DUES (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)**

Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit dues and other fees payable to an employee organization

from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee and to prohibit those dues and fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the public employee.

HB 454

CEMETERY LOTS (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.)

To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner.

= A

SENATE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

SB 246

= A STUDENT REMOVAL (Lehner, P., Manning, G.)

To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre- kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation.

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

[View as a Web Page](#)

Copyright 2017, Gongwer News Service/Ohio

17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without
express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)

From: Ohio House Republican Communications
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 11:14 AM
Subject: GOP Week in Review 12/31/17 - 1/7/18



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

12/31/17 – 1/7/18

WKSU: Ohio's Year in Review 2017: Changes to education policy

"Looking back, basically a time of transition and a time of starting to listen to what's going on in the field and starting to implement common-sense reforms as opposed to just mandates that people can't necessarily comply with," Brenner said.

Sandusky Register: Busy year for Shores & Islands

In April we were proud to provide support to the governor's office, city of Sandusky, Cedar Point, state Sen. Randy Gardner, state Rep. Steve Arndt, TourismOhio and others in hosting the governor's State of the State address at the Sandusky State Theatre.

The Advertiser-Tribune: SRPC, elections board ready to go

Reineke presented an Ohio flag and a U.S. flag that were flown over the state capitol building Dec. 19 as a gift to the elections panel. "I'm very happy to be here," he said. "We've all got to keep working together to make great things happen."

WOSU: Ohio lawmaker pushes for harsher penalties for parolees who fail drug tests

Republican state Rep. Niraj Antani, the bill's sponsor, wants to create more access to treatment facilities and says jails should not be used as detox centers. "But until that time, jail is simply the best place for someone to detox and to be safely placed if they are (using) heroin and fentanyl - until we can figure out something else for them," Antani said.

Mansfield News Journal: Community honors law enforcement with 'Spread the Light'

The evening ended with state Rep. Mark Romanchuk, R-Ontario, counting down to officers switching on the lights and sirens in more than a dozen police vehicles to officially "spread the light" and start the week.

Associated Press: Proposed Ohio law would prevent forced nurse overtime

State Rep. Robert Sprague, a Findlay Republican, said he's concerned that exhausted nurses working long hours can lead to preventable medical errors. "It's a recipe for problems," Sprague told The Dayton Daily News.

Findlay Courier: Sprague bill would ban forced nurse OT

A bill introduced in the Ohio House by state Rep. Robert Sprague, R-Findlay, would prohibit hospitals from requiring a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse to work overtime as a condition of employment.

Wilmington News Journal: Guest column from Speaker Cliff Rosenberger: Buckeye Pathway guides policy

This member-driven document outlines our priorities and serves as a roadmap to three objectives: improve Ohio's economic environment, enhance opportunities for all Ohioans, and strengthen families and communities. Halfway through this term, we have approved more than 30 bills that align with these principles.

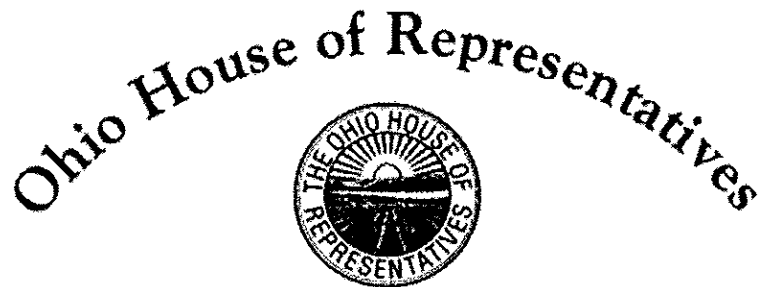
Toledo Blade: Republican lawmakers push to make Ohio "right to work"

The resolutions are sponsored by state Rep. John Becker (R., Cincinnati) and state Rep. Craig Riedel (R., Defiance). ... "It's not so much that I'm opposed to unions," Mr. Riedel said. "I believe strongly that employees ought not to be required to pay fair-share fees if they choose not to join that union. If that individual chooses not to be a part of that union, they're on their own. They would not get any representation whatsoever by that collective-bargaining agreement."

Your News Now: HB 336 plans to help Ohioans with suspended licenses

"This would help reduce the number of suspensions the bureau has to keep track of, it would also provide an incentive for a person to get insurance, get their license reinstated, and be able, if you're not able now to find a job because of lack of transportation, to be able to do that," said Rep. Bob Cupp, 4th District Rep for the State of Ohio.

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a

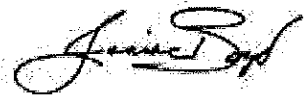
claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09



Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 10:15 AM
To: House_All
Subject: FW: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

****REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

Dominic Paretti

Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd
Ohio House District 09
614-644-5079

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of

family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

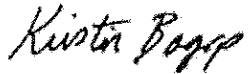
An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janine Boyd".

Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kristin Boggs".

Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Max.Behlke@ncsl.org

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:32 AM

To: Zielinski, Justin

Subject: Cap to Cap: This Week: Gun Control and Remembering the Rev. Billy Graham



CapitoltoCapitol

NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES



Feb. 27, 2018

In This Issue:

This Week: Gun Control and Remembering the Rev. Billy Graham

US Supreme Court Hears Arguments in Union Dues Case

White House Meeting on School Safety

Supreme Court to Hear Online Sales Tax Case in April

DACA and Immigration Debate Stalls in Senate

Congressional Appropriators Race to March 23 Deadline

House Republicans Signal Willingness to Negotiate with Senate on Banking Reform Measures

Also of Note...

This Week: Gun Control and Remembering the Rev. Billy Graham

Congress returned yesterday from its Presidents' Day recess, which was dominated by the issue of gun control. Since the Feb. 14 shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., the nation has been immersed in an intense debate on what to do to prevent future school shootings. However, don't expect Congress to act this week. While the Senate will be in session all week, the House will conclude business today to make way for the remembrance of Rev. Billy Graham, who will become only the fourth private citizen to lie in honor in the Capitol Rotunda on Wednesday and Thursday.

US Supreme Court Hears Arguments in Union Dues Case

Perhaps the most significant debate on Capitol Hill this week will take place yesterday in the U.S. Supreme Court. The decision could not only affect every member of a public sector union but also result in the largest shift in federal education policy in 40 years.

On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral argument in Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 31. Mark Janus, a public-sector employee in Illinois, is challenging the constitutionality of a state statute allowing public sector employers and unions to agree that employees who don't join the union must still pay their "fair share" of collective bargaining costs. Janus argues that

requiring him to pay his "fair share" of union dues is a violation of his First Amendment free speech rights. Janus asserts he should have the choice to join or not join, pay or don't pay.

Since 1977, when the US Supreme Court ruled in Abood v. Detroit Board of Education, public employees subject to fair share agreements have been required to pay for union representation, even if the worker doesn't join the union.

It is estimated that *Janus v. AFSCME* could impact 5.5 million public sector employees. The ruling could alter the relationship between labor and management, nationwide union membership and dues collection. At present, 22 states authorize fair share for public sector employees.

The *Janus* decision may have an outsized impact on public education given that two of the three largest public sector unions in the nation relate to education= 7the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers. Employees in education had the highest unionization rate of all sectors, with 37.2 percent being represented by a union.

On Dec. 5, attorneys general in 20 states (Michigan, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wisconsin) filed an amicus curiae brief in support of Janus. On Jan. 19, attorneys general in 20 states (New York, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and Washington) and the District of Columbia filed an amicus curiae brief in support of AFSCME.

In 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court considered a similar case Friedrichs v. California Teachers Union. With the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, the Court deadlocked with a 4-4 decision. Justice Gorsuch could be the swing vote to overturn *Abood*. A decision is expected by the end of June.

NCSL Contacts: Jon Jukuri (labor), Joan Wodiska (education)

DYK? Sunday marked the 25th anniversary of the first terror attack on the World Trade Center. The attack, which killed six people and injured more than a thousand others, involved Islamic terrorists who blew up a 1,200 pound bomb in an underground parking garage in an attempt to collapse the twin towers.

White House Meeting on School Safety

In the wake of the Parkland, Fla., school shooting, last week President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos met with more than 40 survivors, teachers and community members to discuss strategies to reduce school violence. In the meeting, the president expressed his support to improve federal background checks on gun purchases, equip school staff with firearms and explore other avenues to improve school safety. The president also issued a Presidential Memorandum directing the U.S. Department of Justice to "expeditiously as possible, to propose for notice and comment a rule banning all devices that turn legal weapons into machineguns." An official federal regulatory review of the "bump stock" rule began last fall, following the deadly shooting in Las Vegas, Nev. Over 100,000 comments were received and are being reviewed by the Justice Department.

NCSL Contact: Joan Wodiska

Supreme Court to Hear Online Sales Tax Case in April

On Friday, the Supreme Court set the argument date for the *South Dakota v. Wayfair* remote sales tax case for Tuesday, April 17. If the court rules in the South Dakota's favor, every state could be granted the authority to require remote businesses to collect and remit sales taxes on transactions made by their state's residents. If South Dakota loses, the long-term viability of the sales tax as a state revenue stream for states may be in jeopardy. For more, visit NCSL's page that summarizes the case as well as the history of remote sales tax collection issue in the states.

NCSL Contacts: Max Behlke, Jake Lestock

DACA and Immigration Debate Stalls in Senate

Before Congress recessed, and before the re-emergence of the gun control debate, a fierce debate on immigration consumed Capitol Hill. However, lawmakers on Capitol Hill failed to reach a consensus on the issues of immigration reform, border security and the "Dreamers" and there is still no clear path forward for a comprehensive deal. In the Senate, neither of the four immigration-related proposals cleared the 60 vote threshold needed to advance legislation and it is unlikely that any proposal from the House would be entertained by the Senate.

While the president had set March 5 as the deadline for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, at which point he would terminate the program, federal district judges in California and New York have delayed that possibility, thus allowing more time for negotiators to work out a deal. On Monday morning, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the administration's request to rule on the legality of DACA in advance of a U.S. Circuit Court decision. In a one sentence denial of the administration's request, the Court stated, "[I]t is assumed that the Court of Appeals will proceed expeditiously to decide this case." The Court of Appeals is expected to rule on the injunction as early as April.

NCSL Contact: Susan Frederick, Lucia Bragg

White House Meeting on School Safety

In the wake of the Parkland, Fla., school shooting, last week President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos met with more than 40 survivors, teachers and community members to discuss strategies to reduce school violence. In the meeting, the president expressed his support to improve federal background checks on gun purchases, equip school staff with firearms and explore other avenues to improve school safety. The president also issued a Presidential Memorandum directing the U.S. Department of Justice to "expeditiously as possible, to propose for notice and comment a rule banning all devices that turn legal weapons into machineguns." An official federal regulatory review of the "bump stock" rule began last fall, following the deadly shooting in Las Vegas, Nev. Over 100,000 comments were received and are being reviewed by the Justice Department.

NCSL Contact: Joan Wodiska

Supreme Court to Hear Online Sales Tax Case in April

On Friday, the Supreme Court set the argument date for the *South Dakota v. Wayfair* remote sales tax case for Tuesday, April 17. If the court rules in the South Dakota's favor, every state could be granted the authority to require remote businesses to collect and remit sales taxes on transactions made by their state's residents. If South Dakota loses, the long-term viability of the sales tax as a state revenue stream for states may be in jeopardy. For more, visit [NCSL's page](#) that summarizes the case as well as the history of remote sales tax collection issue in the states.

NCSL Contacts: [Max Behlke](#), [Jake Lestock](#)

DACA and Immigration Debate Stalls in Senate

Before Congress recessed, and before the re-emergence of the gun control debate, a fierce debate on immigration consumed Capitol Hill. However, lawmakers on Capitol Hill failed to reach a consensus on the issues of immigration reform, border security and the "Dreamers" and there is still no clear path forward for a comprehensive deal. In the Senate, neither of the four immigration-related proposals cleared the 60 vote threshold needed to advance legislation and it is unlikely that any proposal from the House would be entertained by the Senate.

While the president had set March 5 as the deadline for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, at which point he would terminate the program, federal district judges in California and New York have delayed that possibility, thus allowing more time for negotiators to work out a deal. On Monday morning, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the administration's request to rule on the legality of DACA in advance of a U.S. Circuit Court decision. In a one sentence denial of the administration's request, the Court stated, "[I]t is assumed that the Court of Appeals will proceed expeditiously to decide this case." The Court of Appeals is expected to rule on the injunction as early as April.

NCSL Contact: [Susan Frederick](#), [Lucia Bragg](#)

DYK? Since 1870, when Senator Hiram Revels of Mississippi and Representative Joseph Rainey of South Carolina became the first African Americans to serve in Congress, a total of 153 African Americans have served as U.S. Representatives, Delegates, or Senators.

Congressional Appropriators Race to March 23 Deadline

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 included the fifth continuing resolution (CR) for fiscal year (FY) 2018 and set new spending caps on how much the government can spend through FY 2019. Now, lawmakers have just four weeks to craft the 12 annual appropriations bills, or one combined omnibus bill, before March 23 when the government is at risk of another government shutdown. To make things even more complicated, the budget deal also had several informal agreements that were agreed to, but did not give specifics. This includes yearly funding of:

- \$3 billion to "fight against the opioid and mental health crises."
- \$10 billion for infrastructure.
- \$2 billion to "rebuild and improve" veteran's health care.
- \$2 billion for "college affordability."
- \$2.9 billion for the child care development block grant.
- \$1 billion for the National Institutes of Health.

Now, appropriators will have to translate how this funding will look while the party leaders act as chaperones to make sure everybody complies with the deal's stipulations. This also may be the last major legislative vehicle of the year, so you can bet lawmakers are rushing to get their priority bills added to the omnibus. The budget deal reached earlier this month also created a joint committee that is specifically tasked with "advancing reforms to the budget and appropriations process." Last week, House leaders made their selections on who would try to tackle this monstrous task. Speaker Paul Ryan chose Steve Womack (R-Ark.), Rob Woodall (R-Ga.), Jodey Arrington (R-Texas), and Pete Sessions (R-Texas), while Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi chose Nita Lowery (D-N.Y.), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.), Derek Kilmer (D-Wash.) and John Yarmuth (D-Ky.). Senate leaders have yet to name their eight members to the reform committee.

NCSL Contacts: [Max Behlke](#), [Jake Lestock](#)

DYK? On Feb. 25, 1863, 155 years ago, President Abraham Lincoln signed the National Currency Act (later called the "National Bank Act"), which was the first attempt to establish a central bank following the failures of the First and Second Banks of the United States. The law aim to address the hodge-podge of local banks, local money, and conflicting regulatory standards that existed before the Civil War. The act allowed for the creation of national banks, planned for a national currency, and gave the federal government the ability to sell war bonds and securities.

House Republicans Signal Willingness to Negotiate with Senate on Banking Reform Measures

House Financial Services Committee Chair, Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas), appears to be open to negotiations with the Senate on Dodd-Frank rollback measures. Hensarling, who has a steady track record of wanting to wholly dismantle Dodd-Frank, now seems to be open to more moderate reforms in a strategic attempt to get legislation to the president's desk.

Hensarling's original banking reform legislation, the Financial CHOICE Act of 2017, would have removed significant portions of Dodd-Frank. His new strategy consists of multiple individual bills amounting to an a la carte offering of banking reform measures. House Republicans are hoping that this strategy is more palatable to moderate senators than the sweeping Financial CHOICE Act, which many deemed D.O.A. in the Senate last year after it passed the House.

In his attempt to work with the Senate, Hensarling seems willing to ease up on tough reform proposals designed to slash the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—an agency that has proven to be a political lightning rod since its Dodd-Frank inception in 2010. Bipartisan policies that seem to be on the table in both chambers include relaxing regulatory oversight of credit rating agencies and increasing capital holdings thresholds for small and mid-sized banks that currently require heightened scrutiny under Dodd-Frank.

These latest attempts to move bi-partisan banking reform legislation come at the chagrin of some Democrats who feel that such measures would amount to taking a step back after progress made in the post-Great Recession era. If the House and Senate can successfully negotiate the legislation, the president has signaled ardent support for legislation that rolls-back Dodd-Frank in any form.

NCSL Contact: Ethan Wilson

Also of Note...

- Governors to Washington: Stop dithering on guns – POLITICO

State leaders from both parties implored federal lawmakers this weekend to listen to their states' examples for responsible firearm legislation after the school shooting in Parkland, Fla., increasingly exasperated with the slow pace of debate and halting progress in the nation's capital.

- [Trump's personal pilot 'in the mix' to lead the Federal Aviation Administration](#) – Washington Post

President Trump's personal pilot is "in the mix" to lead the Federal Aviation Administration, a White House official confirmed Sunday night.

- [After testy call with Trump over border wall, Mexican president shelves plan to visit White House](#) – Washington Post

Tentative plans for Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto to make his first visit to the White House to meet with President Trump were scuttled this week after a testy call between the two leaders ended in an impasse over Trump's promised border wall, according to U.S. and Mexican officials.

- [California Democratic Party doesn't endorse Feinstein re-election bid](#) – Fox News

The California Democratic Party will not endorse Sen. Dianne Feinstein's re-election bid this year, with delegates at the party's annual convention giving the majority of votes to her top primary challenger, progressive State Sen. Kevin de Leon.

- [Read the Democratic rebuttal to the Nunes memo, annotated](#) – Washington Post

[Read the Feb. 12, 2018 Capitol-to-Capitol.](#)

Like Capitol-to-Capitol? Have ideas or suggestions for how it can be improved? Please take two minutes to let us know in this [very short survey!](#)

We are always looking for interesting trivia about states, legislatures and American history. If you have some great facts, don't keep them to yourself. Let us know by clicking [here](#). We will likely include them in a future edition of Capitol to Capitol!

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact [Max Behlke](#).

[Read More](#)

Capitol to Capitol is a publication of the National Conference of State Legislatures. NCSL is recognized as a formidable lobbying force in Washington, D.C. NCSL works to protect states from unfunded federal mandates and unwarranted federal pre-emption of state authority, and seeks to provide state legislatures the flexibility they need to innovate and be responsive to the unique needs of their residents. NCSL's advocacy is guided by the policy directives and resolutions adopted during NCSL's Legislative Summit.



© National Conference of State Legislatures

Denver: 303-364-7700

Washington: 202-624-5400

[Unsubscribe](#) from these messages.

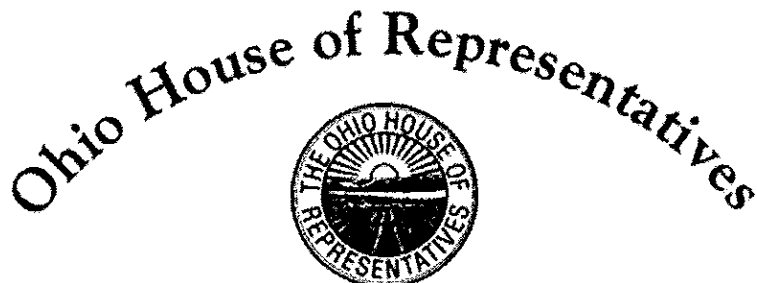
7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 5:05 PM
To: House_All
Subject: FW: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

****REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

Dominic Paretti
Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd
Ohio House District 09
614-644-5079

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

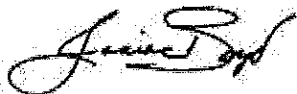
The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09

Kristin Boggs

Kristin Boggs

State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Fedor, Teresa
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 9:34 PM
To: Paretti, Dominic
CC: House_All
Subject: Re: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

Yes

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 27, 2018, at 5:05 PM, Paretti, Dominic <Dominic.Paretti@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

****REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS
MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

Dominic Paretti
Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd
Ohio House District 09
614-644-5079

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

<image001.png>
MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave

benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov.

<image002.jpg>

Janine Boyd

State Representative, Ohio House District 09

<image003.png>

Kristin Boggs

State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Finlay, Serena
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 11:11 AM
To: Paretti, Dominic
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS THIS FRIDAY AT 4PM



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship = 6 Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption,

or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

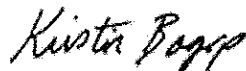
An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09



Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Finlay, Serena
Sent: Thursday, March 8, 2018 1:57 PM
To: Paretti, Dominic
Subject: Deadline Tomorrow: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS TOMORROW AT 4PM

Ohio House of Representatives



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

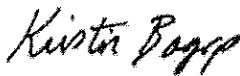
An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09



Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Holly Cantrell
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 2:46 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Status Update

Hi Justin,

I am writing to provide you with a status update on your request for legislation regarding a school district's authority to authorize an employee to carry a concealed handgun in a school safety zone. As I mentioned in one of our previous phone calls, this request is complex and involves drafters from three research groups at LSC: (1) myself from the Education group, (2) Jeff Hobday and Dennis Papp from the Judiciary group, and (3) Julie Rishel and Paul Luzzi from the Employment group. The bill is close to being sent to processing. In the meantime, we want to alert you to some potential constitutional and legal issues with respect to drug testing, collective bargaining, and physical examinations. Additionally, the bill we are drafting differs from the suggested language in several respects, most noticeably in the form of terminology and definitions. We are also drafting a cover letter that will provide a brief summary of those issues and point out some of the changes we made to the proposed language.

It is our intention to complete this request sometime next week, at which point we would be happy to sit down with Representative Schuring, yourself, and/or the drafter of the proposed language to work through some of the issues, should Representative Schuring wish to do so.

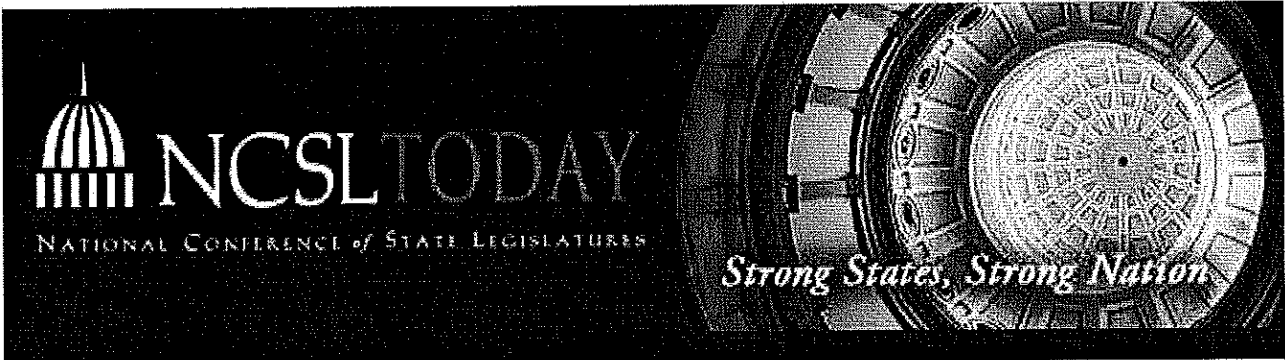
Thank you for your continued patience regarding this request. Please let me know if there is anything we can do in the meantime to assist you.

Kindest Regards,

Holly Cantrell Gilman
Attorney
Ohio Legislative Service Commission
(614) 466-5041

From: NCSL TODAY
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 11:08 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Supreme Court delivers sharp blow to unions

NCSL Today | [Manage your subscription](#)



TOP NEWS June 27, 2018

Supreme Court delivers sharp blow to unions

The New York Times

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dealt a major blow to organized labor. By a 5-to-4 vote, with the more conservative justices in the majority, the court ruled that government workers who choose not to join unions may not be required to help pay for collective bargaining.

Court rules Virginia House districts unconstitutionally racially gerrymandered

Richmond Times-Dispatch

A federal court ruled Tuesday that the Virginia House of Delegates unconstitutionally packed African-American voters into 11 legislative districts and ordered the General Assembly to draw new district lines by Oct. 30.



FEATURED

California lawmakers advance last-minute data privacy bill

Associated Press

California state senators advanced a last-minute internet privacy bill Tuesday ahead of a deadline while acknowledging it would need changes if it becomes law. The bill would let consumers ask companies what personal data they collect and opt out of having their data sold, among other privacy provisions.

Oklahoma voters approve medical marijuana

CNN

The measure requires a medical marijuana license with approval from an Oklahoma Board certified physician, that would be issued by the state's Department of Health. It also establishes a minimum age of 18 for medical marijuana licenses, although younger applicants can get an exception if a parent or guardian, and two doctors sign. **NCSL data cited.**

[NCSL resources on medical marijuana.](#)

California abortion ruling puts other states' laws in doubt

Governing

Supreme Court justices on Tuesday sided with anti-abortion groups in a case over what information crisis pregnancy centers have to give patients.

Kansas conservatives push to restrain state Supreme Court after schools ruling

Webinar Thursday: Federal infrastructure funding - an update while we wait

One of the most talked-about possibilities for federal action in 2018 is a new infrastructure bill that aims to inject what nearly all experts agree is a significant boost of funds for many of our national infrastructure systems.



Webinar Wednesday: Patient barriers to opioid use disorder treatment

Capitol to Capitol: 'In the name of federalism and free markets'

Connect with the new NCSL Events mobile app



Can you track me now? Not without a warrant

In a long-awaited decision in *Carpenter v. United States*, the U.S. Supreme Court held 5-4 that the Fourth Amendment requires the

Wichita Eagle

Calls for a state constitutional amendment to restrain the Kansas Supreme Court are growing louder after the justices ruled again that lawmakers are not adequately funding schools.

government to receive a warrant to obtain cell-site location information.

= A



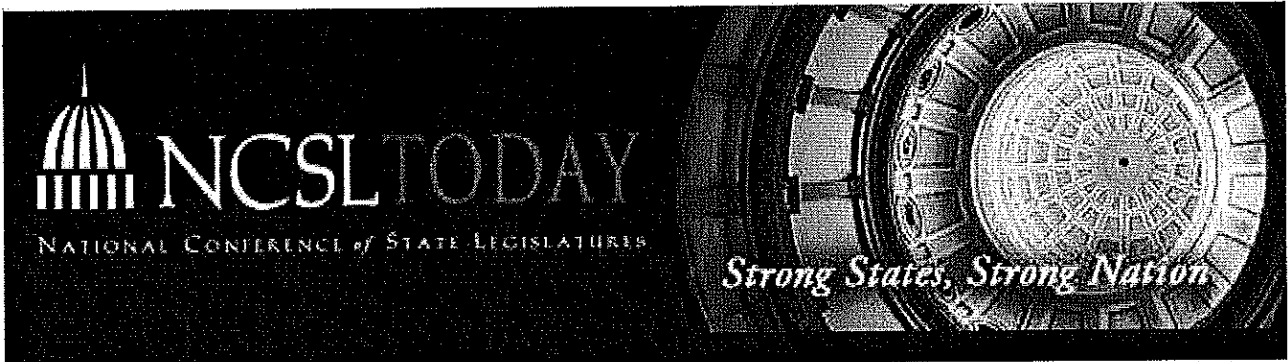
© National Conference of State Legislatures
Denver: 303-364-7700
Washington: 202-624-5400

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: NCSL TODAY
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 11:01 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Hey, you, behind the wheel: Turn off 'Survivor'

NCSL Today | Manage your subscription



TOP NEWS June 28, 2018

States cracking down on streaming video while driving

USA TODAY

Georgia isn't the only state to single out streaming as a new danger. A Washington state law, the Driving Under the Influence of Electronics Act, in January was the first to specifically mention video on phones. It even makes it illegal for Washington drivers to sneak a peek at their smartphone when stopped in traffic or at a stoplight, though they can touch a mounted or in-dash screen.

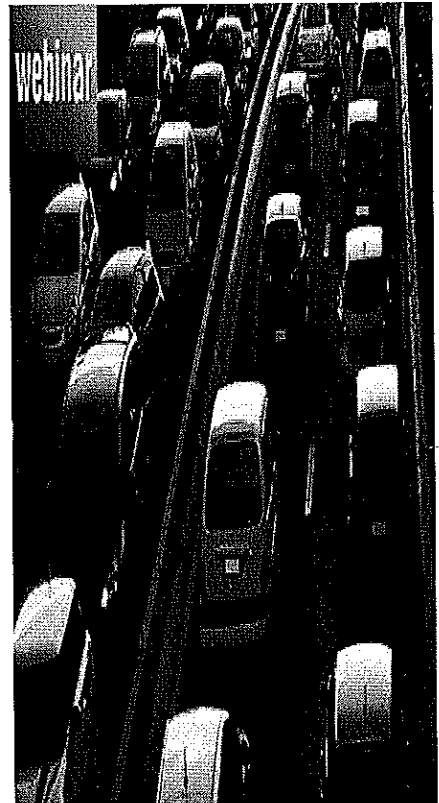
NCSL's Annie Kitch quoted.

[NCSL resources on distracted driving.](#)

'Now comes the interesting part' with online sales tax collections

Route Fifty

The court ruling in *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.* has



FEATURING

also left complicated questions in its wake. Like what the specifics of new state policies could look like, whether Congress will take action, and how companies that sell goods online will react. **NCSL's Max Behlke** quoted.

Maine legislature passes sweeping medical marijuana reform bill

Portland Press Herald

The bill, which now goes to Gov. Paul LePage, would let caregivers expand their business operations. For example, they could hire more than one worker, and sell up to 30 percent of their harvest to other caregivers and dispensaries.

[NCSL resources on medical marijuana.](#)

Ohio legislature passes blockchain legislation

Cleveland.com

Ohio is close to becoming the latest state to offer legal support for blockchain-based business transactions, following a Wednesday vote by the state's General Assembly.

[NCSL LegisBrief on blockchain technology.](#)

South Carolina lawmakers OK rate cuts for failed nuclear plants

Associated Press

South Carolina lawmakers have approved a temporary rate cut of nearly 15 percent for customers of a private utility who paid billions for two nuclear reactors that never produced power.

Webinar 3 p.m. ET TODAY Federal infrastructure funding - an update while we wait

One of the most talked-about possibilities for federal action in 2018 is a new infrastructure bill that aims to inject what nearly all experts agree is a significant boost of funds for many of our national infrastructure systems.

 NCSL

= A

2017 state tax actions

Hear from thought leaders at NCSL's Legislative Summit July 30-Aug. 2

Connect with the new NCSL Events mobile app

 BLOG

Supreme Court deals blow to unions in Janus case

The U.S. Supreme Court held 5-4 in *Janus v. AFSCME* that state statutes allowing public sector employers and unions to agree that employees who don't join the union must still pay their

Commercial spaceports still waiting for liftoff

Stateline

Communities are eager to tap into the growing commercial space industry.

"fair share" of collective bargaining costs violate the First Amendment.



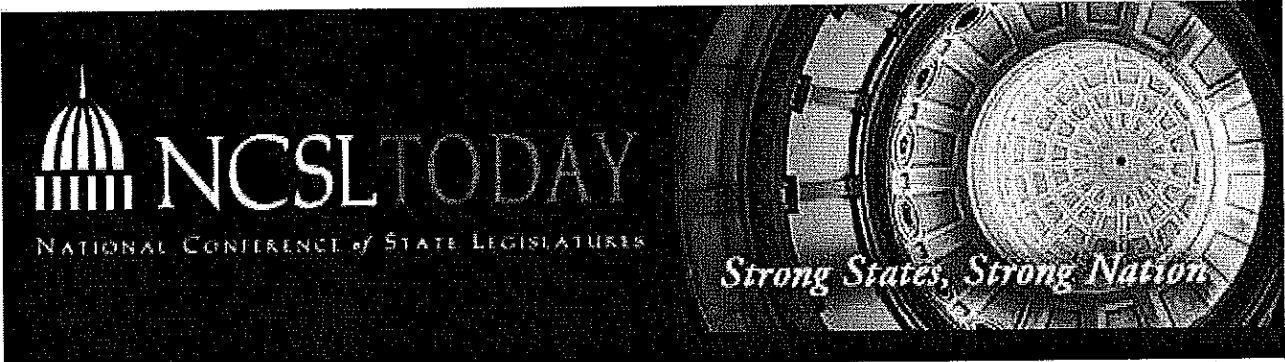
© National Conference of State Legislatures
Denver: 303-364-7700
Washington: 202-624-5400

[Click here](#) to unsubscribe

7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: NCSL TODAY
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 10:49 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Why 'orphan' oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states

NCSL Today | Manage your subscription



TOP NEWS July 9, 2018

Why 'orphan' oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states

Stateline

Unplugged wells can leak explosive gas into neighborhoods and leach toxins into groundwater.

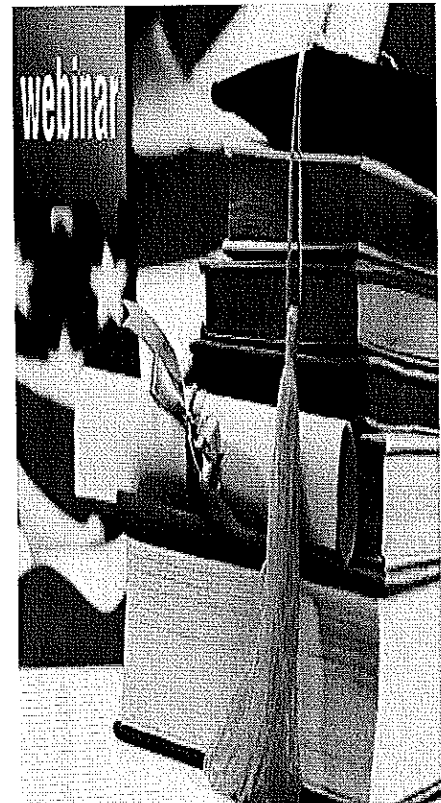
At state level, GOP renews push for 'supermajority' for tax hikes

The Washington Post

Florida Republicans are pursuing a plan to make it harder for lawmakers to raise taxes in the state, adding new hurdles for Democrats hoping to enact bold social programs such as "Medicare for all" and more robust education spending. **NCSL research cited.**

Insurers warn of rising premiums after Trump axes Obamacare payments again

Reuters



Health insurers warned that a move by the Trump administration on Saturday to temporarily suspend a program that was set to pay out \$10.4 billion to insurers for covering high-risk individuals last year could drive up premium costs and create marketplace uncertainty.

[NCSL resources on health insurances premiums and increases.](#)

North Dakota measure would ban noncitizen voting

Associated Press

Backers of a measure to change the North Dakota Constitution to explicitly bar non-U.S. citizens from voting say they have gathered enough signatures to get it on the November ballot. **NCSL research cited.**

Delaware lawmakers approve bill to prohibit pharmacist 'gag clauses'

Delaware Public Media

Pharmacy Benefits Managers (PBMs), third-party administrators of prescription drug programs for health insurance plans, sometimes forbid pharmacists from telling customers about cheaper therapeutic alternatives, or disclosing when a drug might be cheaper when paid for out-of-pocket, rather than through insurance. = A **NCSL data cited.** [NCSL resources on 'gag clauses'.](#)

Janus ruling is a blow to public unions - especially bad for black women

Governing

The Supreme Court's decision could weaken unions'

Webinar Wednesday: Revitalizing civics education in U.S. schools

This webinar will explore the general state of civics knowledge and education in the United State and highlight some of the work state legislators are undertaking to address the civics education and engagement in their states.



FY 2019 state budget status

Hear from thought leaders at the forefront of top issues at the Legislative Summit

Connect with the new NCSL Events mobile app



Dig deep into Supreme Court's term with this free webinar series

Check out this series of webinars organized by the State and Local Legal Center and hosted by NCSL and other organizations. All of the webinars are FREE and intended for

collective bargaining power, which has historically benefited women of color more than most.

a non-attorney and attorney audiences.



© National Conference of State Legislatures
Denver: 303-364-7700
Washington: 202-624-5400

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: Bethany Rhodes
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 11:38 AM
To: statesenator29@gmail.com; Zielinski, Justin
Subject: FW: Story on Pension System Return Assumptions
Attachments: 10-13-16 ALEC Study -Unaccountable-and-Unaffordable.pdf;
Discount Rate Issue Brief October 2016.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Would you be interested in fielding this one? If you like, we can give him numbers and such, but I have a policy that we are staff and MEMBERS get quoted... Let me know your thoughts, please.

In the event you WOULD like to handle this, the issue brief we did 2 weeks ago covers this issue (see attached). Also, I've attached the ALEC "study."

Bethany Rhodes
Director and General Counsel
Ohio Retirement Study Council
30 East Broad Street, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-228-1346 Phone
614-228-3574 Direct
614-228-0118 Fax
Bethany.Rhodes@orsc.org
www.orsc.org

Confidentiality Notice: This message is intended for use only by the individual or entity to whom or which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and/or otherwise exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify me immediately by telephone.

From: Burns, Adrian [mailto:aburns@nncogannett.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 11:02 AM
To: Bethany Rhodes
Subject: Story on Pension System Return Assumptions

Ms. Rhodes, I'm working on a story today looking at a recent American Legislative Exchange Council report that pushes for a much lower expected return rate for pensions. Their "risk-free" rate would obviously push unfunded liability figures up to very high levels for the pension systems, and is indeed the basis of their alarming report.

Do you have a bit of time today or tomorrow to chat about this issue? I have been covering the pension systems for quite a while (with Columbus Business first for several years, then away from the news business for a while now back at it).

Thanks!

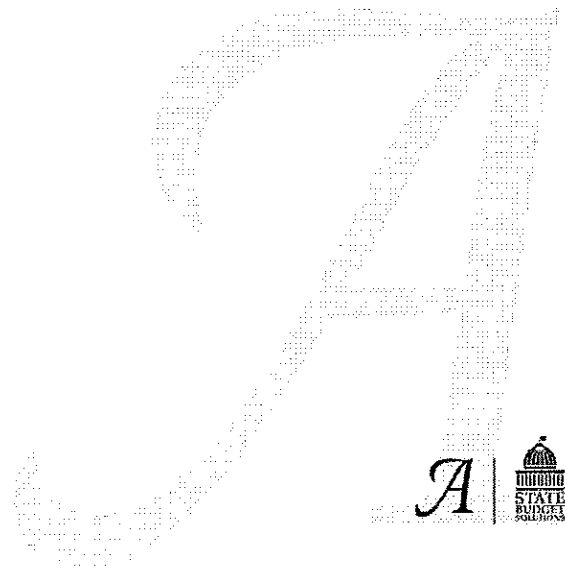
Adrian Burns
Enterprise Reporter
Phone (office & cell): 740-973-4499
aburns@gannett.com
Follow me on Twitter: @burnsadrian



October | 2016

Unaccountable and Unaffordable 2016

Unfunded Public Pension Liabilities Near \$5.6 Trillion



Unaccountable and Unaffordable 2016

Unfunded Public Pension Liabilities Near \$5.6 Trillion

About the American Legislative Exchange Council

The Unaccountable and Unaffordable 2016 report was published by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) as part of its mission to discuss, develop and disseminate model public policies that expand free markets, promote economic growth, limit the size of government and preserve individual liberty. ALEC is the nation's largest non-partisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators, with more than 2,000 members across the nation. ALEC is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of state legislators. ALEC is classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, public policy and educational organization. Individuals, philanthropic foundations, businesses and associations are eligible to support the work of ALEC through tax-deductible gifts.

About the ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform

The ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform strives to educate policymakers, the press and the general public on the principles of sound fiscal policy and the evidence that supports those principles. This is done by personalized research, policy briefings in the states and by releasing nonpartisan policy publications for distribution, such as *Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index*. State Budget Solutions is a project of the ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform.

Authors:

Bob Williams

Senior Fellow, State Budget Solutions
American Legislative Exchange Council

Jonathan Williams

Vice President, Center for State Fiscal Reform
American Legislative Exchange Council

Theodore Lafferty

Legal Research Analyst, Center for State Fiscal Reform
American Legislative Exchange Council

Sarah Curry

Policy Fellow, State Budget Solutions
American Legislative Exchange Council

Acknowledgements and Disclaimers

The authors wish to thank Lisa B. Nelson, Bill Meierling, Nathan Brinkman, Kati Siconolfi, Joe Horvath, Elliot Young, Christine Smith, Christine Phipps, Ashley Varner, Anthony Lafrate, James Kennedy, Tony Bergida and the professional staff at ALEC for their valuable assistance with this project.

All rights reserved. Except as permitted under the United States Copyright Act of 1976, no part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system without the prior permission of the publisher. The copyright to this work is held by the American Legislative Exchange Council. This study may not be duplicated or distributed in any form without the permission of the American Legislative Exchange Council and with proper attribution.

Contact Information:

American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202
Tel: 703.373.0933
Fax: 703.373.0927
www.alec.org

Unfunded Public Pension Liabilities Near \$5.6 Trillion

State public pension plans are now underfunded by nearly \$5.6 trillion — an increase of almost \$900 billion from State Budget Solutions' (SBS) last comprehensive report in 2014.¹ When state pension funds are examined through the lens of a more realistic valuation, pension funding gaps are revealed to be much larger than reported in official state financial documents. This report totals state-administered plans' assets and liabilities and finds nationwide total unfunded liabilities to be \$5.59 trillion. The nationwide funding level is a mere 35 percent, which is one percentage point lower than two years ago.² Combined across all states, the price tag for unfunded pension liabilities is now \$17,427 for every man, woman and child in the United States.

The only way to solve this growing problem is for states to enact meaningful pension reform. While some might feel that America's public pension crisis only threatens current workers and retirees, it is in fact a problem that affects everyone. Taxpayers are on the hook for the legal obligation to cover the promised benefits of traditional, defined-benefit pension plans. Additionally, every dollar that is spent filling the gap in public pensions is a dollar taken away from core government services. This forces legislators to make the difficult decision of leaving their citizens with fewer services or enacting economically damaging tax increases.

A Nationwide Pension Problem

This report considers three important metrics to gauge the severity of the pension problem across the 50 states: unfunded pension liability per capita, the funded ratio and total unfunded pension liability. Unfunded pension liability per capita reveals the personal share of liability for every resident in each state. The funded ratio represents how well a given state's pension plans are funding their pension promises. Finally, the total unfunded pension liability reveals the fiscal strain on state budgets in raw dollar terms.

Unfunded pension liabilities per capita, which are given by state in the Appendix, are arguably the most alarming facet of pension funding. Since public pensions are the responsibility of all taxpayers, it is only fair to consider this metric when evaluating the states' relative pension health. When unfunded pension liabilities are viewed as shared debt placed on each individual, Alaska, where each resident is on the hook for a staggering \$42,950, tops the list. Ohio and Illinois follow for the highest per person unfunded pension liabilities.

Another useful gauge of financial health is the funded ratio, or the total value of a plan's assets weighed against its accrued liabilities. This calculation is important since total unfunded liabilities alone do not tell the entire story of a state's pension problems. California has the nation's largest unfunded liability in absolute dollar terms, but its funded ratio of 35.6 percent is the 21st best. Connecticut has the nation's worst funded ratio at 22.8 percent, meaning no state is failing to keep its promise to taxpayers and pensioners as badly as Connecticut. The state's failure to address its pension liabilities is a significant contributor to Connecticut's ongoing budget problems. While Wisconsin has the best funded ratio in the country, the state's defined-benefit pension fund is only 63.4 percent funded when more prudent accounting assumptions are applied. Even in the best-case scenario, all states have significant funding gaps. The Appendix shows the funded ratios for every state.

While the most accurate indicators of state pension health relate to unfunded liabilities per capita and funded ratios, total unfunded pension liabilities show just how big a burden each state has accrued. The most populous states with the largest government workforces will also tend to have the largest unfunded liabilities, such as California (more than \$956 billion). Smaller states, such as Vermont and North Dakota, which employ fewer workers, face smaller burdens. The Appendix shows the states with the largest and smallest total unfunded pension liabilities.

Real Pension Liabilities are Obscured by Poor Accounting Methods

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) sets accounting rules for states and municipalities. In 2012, GASB made two significant changes to how the financial health of pensions is measured. These changes were made, in part, as a reaction to the massive hit pension plans took during and after the "Great Recession" of 2008, and were implemented as a way to increase transparency, consistency and comparability of pension information. Although these GASB reforms are a step in the right direction, states often employ accounting "tricks," which paint a rosier picture than is actually the case.

One accounting trick is the use of high discount rates, the assumed rate of future investment returns on fund assets, when calculating pension liabilities. This report analyzed more than 280 state-administered pension plans, and found the simple, unweighted average discount rate to be 7.37 percent. While state funding is significant, on average, more than 70 percent of the total costs of pension benefits are paid for by the plan's investment earnings.³

According to public finance scholars Robert Novy-Marx and Joshua D. Rauh, "the states use discount rates that are unreasonably high."⁴ As former Social Security Administration deputy commissioner Andrew Biggs and economist Kent Smetters have explained, "No matter how well a pension plan manages its investments, it cannot generate 8 percent returns with certainty."⁵ Faced with unrealistically high expectations, state pension fund managers often embrace overly aggressive investment strategies, exposing taxpayers to additional risk.

In addition to expecting unrealistic investment returns, many state governments fail to make their annually required contributions (ARC). Pew Charitable Trusts, a nonpartisan think tank, defines the ARC as "the minimum standard set by government accounting rules."⁶ Unfortunately, several states have reduced their annual contributions, failing to make full ARC payments, or they have skipped payments altogether. According to a Pew Charitable Trusts report, only 21 states fully made their annual required contributions in 2013.⁷

Methodology: The State Budget Solutions Difference

This report includes data from more than 280 state-administered public pension plans, holding more than \$3 trillion in assets. Figures were drawn from Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFRs) and actuarial valuations.* In each case, figures were from the most up-to-date valuation available at the time of research.

* This report uses the actuarial value of assets (AVA) and actuarial accrued liability (AAL) for each plan to calculate unfunded liabilities. However, a few plans provide only fair market valuations. In these cases, the fair market value of assets and liabilities was used. Fair market values generally do not vary dramatically from actuarial values. Therefore, the use of fair market values in these cases has very little effect on a state's unfunded liabilities and rankings.

Unlike the GASB-influenced CAFRs and actuarial valuations, State Budget Solutions uses a more reasonable valuation to determine the unfunded liabilities of public pension plans. Given that many plans' assumed rates of return are too high and invite risk, State Budget Solutions uses a more prudent rate of return, rather than the loftiest goals of money managers.⁸ This study uses a rate of return based on the equivalent of a hypothetical 15-year U.S. Treasury bond yield.⁹ Since this is not presently offered as an investment instrument, the number is derived from an average of the 10 and 20 year bond yields. This year's number is averaged from March 2015 to March 2016.¹⁰ The resulting rate is 2.344 percent, which is considered a "risk-free" rate. As the Society of Actuaries' Blue Ribbon Panel recommends, "the rate of return assumption should be based primarily on the current risk-free rate plus explicit risk premia or on other similar forward-looking techniques."¹¹

The reason for using the U.S. Treasury bond yields is to show how a more realistic valuation differs from overly optimistic assumptions regarding unfunded liabilities. Using a more reasonable valuation does not allow state officials to simply hope for the best and shortchange their pension funds. The public sector's current assumed rates of return distort how much money is needed to fund the plans today to guarantee and eventually pay out pension benefits in the future. Ultimately, this will result in broken promises to government employees and financial hardship for taxpayers.

The formula for calculating a more realistic present value for a liability requires first finding the future value of the liability. That formula, in which "i" represents a plan's assumed interest rate, is $FV = AAL \times (1+i)^{15}$. The second step is to discount the future value to arrive at the present value of the more reasonably valued liability. That formula is $PV = FV / (1+i)^{15}$, in which "i" represents the risk-free interest rate.

Conclusion: State Pension Plans Face Growing Challenges

As this report reveals, all 50 states face alarming pension problems. State Budget Solutions is not alone in calling attention to the flawed accounting practices of state agencies. A recent study released by the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, *Pension Debt: United States Public Employee Pension Systems*, also suggests that states use unrealistically high rates of return to discount their pension liabilities. The study found that pension debt totals \$4.8 trillion, a finding similar to this report.¹²

Given that pension payments to retired state employees are guaranteed, taxpayers are ultimately responsible for making up any funding deficit. Accordingly, assumed return rates should be realistic, to ensure taxpayers are not left holding the bag for an underfunded pension system. Assumed rates of return should be thoughtfully determined based on the type of liabilities – in this case, state employees' defined retirement benefits. These guaranteed promises should be matched with guaranteed rates of return.

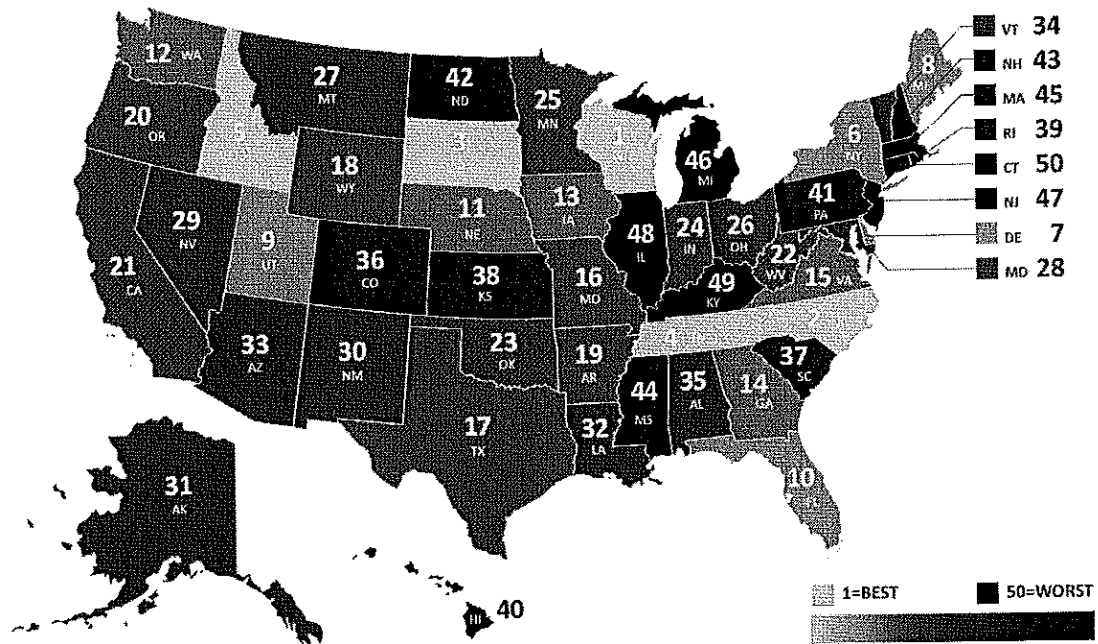
Prudent valuation provides the best insight into the real unfunded liabilities states face. It is important for states to adopt this model because in order to keep their promises, states must first understand their true liabilities. By failing to measure liabilities accurately, any attempt at a solution will be hindered.

If states are to keep their pension promises while protecting taxpayers, reform is vital. As former Utah Senator Dan Liljenquist, author of the American Legislative Exchange Council study, *Keeping the Promise: State Solutions for Government Pension Reform*, has rightly noted, pension reform is not a partisan issue, but a math problem.¹³ Without real solutions in place, the financial security of retirees, workers and taxpayers alike will remain at risk.

Endnotes

- ¹ Esposito-Luppino, Joe. "Promises Made, Promises Broken 2014: Unfunded Liabilities Hit \$4.7 Trillion." State Budget Solutions. November 12, 2014. <http://www.statebudgetsolutions.org/publications/detail/promises-made-promises-broken-2014-unfunded-liabilities-hit-47-trillion>
- ² State Budget Solutions' 2014 report stated the national average funding status for all plans was 36 percent.
- ³ Nixon, Peter. "Estimating future costs at public pension plans: Setting the discount rate." *Pension & Investments*. April 29, 2015. <http://www.pionline.com/article/20150429/ONLINE/150429853/estimating-future-costs-at-public-pension-plans-setting-the-discount-rate>
- ⁴ Novy-Marx, Robert and Rauh, Joshua. "The Liabilities and Risks of State-Sponsored Pension Plans." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Volume 23, Number 4. Fall 2009. http://rnm.simon.rochester.edu/research/JEP_Fall2009.pdf
- ⁵ Biggs, Andrew and Smetters, Kent. "Understanding the argument for market valuation of public pension liabilities." American Enterprise Institute. May 29, 2013. <http://www.aei.org/publication/understanding-the-argument-for-market-valuation-of-public-pension-liabilities/>
- ⁶ The PEW Charitable Trusts. "The State Pensions Funding Gap: Challenges Persist." July 14, 2015. http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2015/07/pewstates_statepensiondebtbrief_final.pdf?la=en
- ⁷ *Ibid.*
- ⁸ Biggs, Andrew and Smetters, Kent. "Understanding the argument for market valuation of public pension liabilities." American Enterprise Institute. May 29, 2013. <http://www.aei.org/publication/understanding-the-argument-for-market-valuation-of-public-pension-liabilities/>
- ⁹ Norcross, Eileen. "Getting an Accurate Picture of State Pension Liabilities." The Mercatus Center at George Mason University. December 13, 2010. <http://mercatus.org/sites/default/files/Getting-an-Accurate-Picture-of-State-Pension-Liabilities.Norcross.12.13.10.pdf>
- ¹⁰ "Resource Center, Daily Treasury Yield Curve Rates." U.S. Department of the Treasury. Accessed March 7, 2016. <https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/data-chart-center/interest-rates/Pages/TextView.aspx?data=yieldYear&year=2016>
- ¹¹ "Report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Public Pension Plan Funding." Society of Actuaries. 2014. <https://www.soa.org/blueribbonpanel/>
- ¹² Nation, Joe. "US Pension Tracker." Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. 2016. http://us.pensiontracker.org/about_pension_tracker.php
- ¹³ Liljenquist, Dan. *Keeping the Promise: State Solutions for Government Pension Reform*. American Legislative Exchange Council. 2013. <https://www.alec.org/publication/keeping-the-promise-state-solutions-for-government-pension-reform/>

2016 FUNDED RATIO OF PUBLIC PENSION PLANS

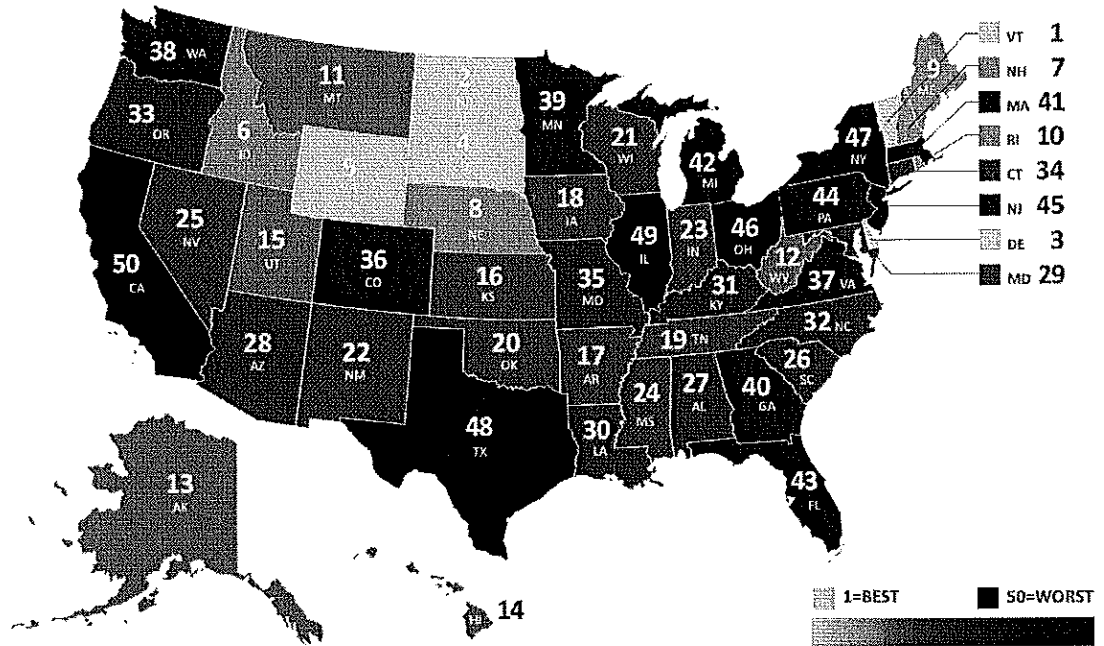


| RANK | STATE | FUNDED RATIO |
|------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Wisconsin | 63.4% |
| 2 | North Carolina | 47.9% |
| 3 | South Dakota | 47.8% |
| 4 | Tennessee | 47.3% |
| 5 | Idaho | 46.5% |
| 6 | New York | 44.9% |
| 7 | Delaware | 44.7% |
| 8 | Maine | 42.1% |
| 9 | Utah | 41.7% |
| 10 | Florida | 40.5% |
| 11 | Nebraska | 40.3% |
| 12 | Washington | 39.9% |
| 13 | Iowa | 39.8% |
| 14 | Georgia | 38.8% |
| 15 | Virginia | 37.4% |
| 16 | Missouri | 36.9% |
| 17 | Texas | 36.9% |
| 18 | Wyoming | 36.6% |
| 19 | Arkansas | 36.4% |
| 20 | Oregon | 36.3% |
| 21 | California | 35.6% |
| 22 | West Virginia | 35.5% |
| 23 | Oklahoma | 34.9% |
| 24 | Indiana | 34.8% |
| 25 | Minnesota | 34.5% |

| RANK | STATE | FUNDED RATIO |
|------|----------------|--------------|
| 26 | Ohio | 34.3% |
| 27 | Montana | 33.6% |
| 28 | Maryland | 33.1% |
| 29 | Nevada | 32.7% |
| 30 | New Mexico | 32.1% |
| 31 | Alaska | 31.4% |
| 32 | Louisiana | 31.3% |
| 33 | Arizona | 31.2% |
| 34 | Vermont | 30.4% |
| 35 | Alabama | 30.3% |
| 36 | Colorado | 30.3% |
| 37 | South Carolina | 30.1% |
| 38 | Kansas | 29.9% |
| 39 | Rhode Island | 29.6% |
| 40 | Hawaii | 29.2% |
| 41 | Pennsylvania | 28.9% |
| 42 | North Dakota | 28.9% |
| 43 | New Hampshire | 28.0% |
| 44 | Mississippi | 27.9% |
| 45 | Massachusetts | 27.7% |
| 46 | Michigan | 27.5% |
| 47 | New Jersey | 26.9% |
| 48 | Illinois | 23.8% |
| 49 | Kentucky | 23.4% |
| 50 | Connecticut | 22.8% |

Data is based on State Budget Solutions' calculations. To read the full report and methodology, see ALEC.org/PensionDebt2016.

2016 TOTAL UNFUNDED LIABILITIES OF PUBLIC PENSION PLANS

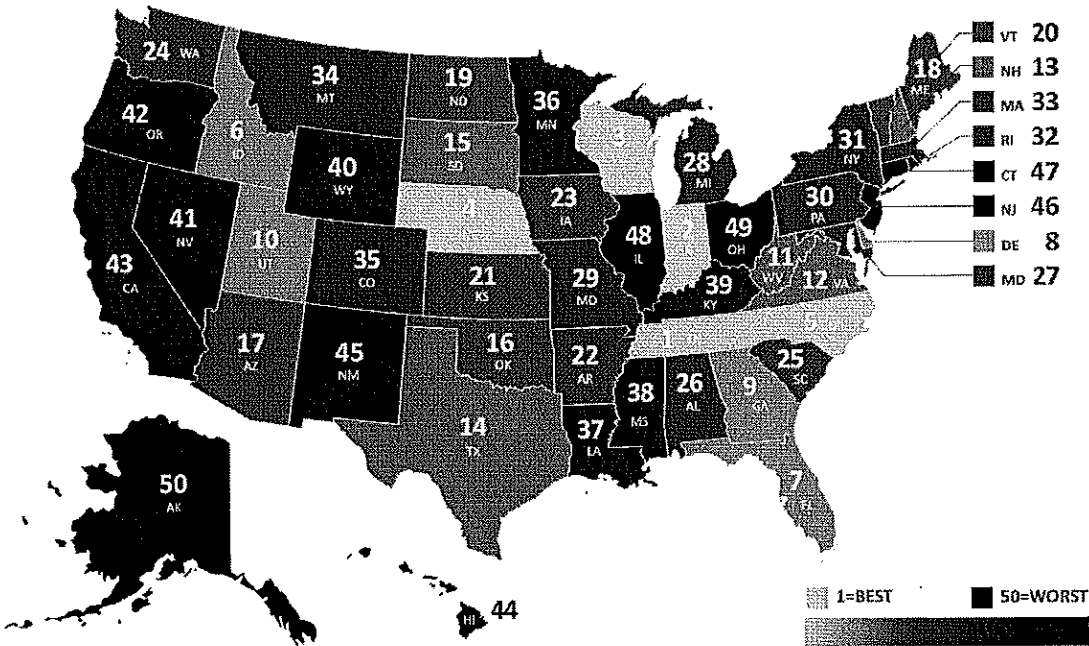


| RANK | STATE | UNFUNDED LIABILITIES |
|------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Vermont | \$8,707,979,583 |
| 2 | North Dakota | \$10,213,597,800 |
| 3 | Delaware | \$11,262,866,330 |
| 4 | South Dakota | \$11,286,522,172 |
| 5 | Wyoming | \$13,642,969,825 |
| 6 | Idaho | \$16,572,789,476 |
| 7 | New Hampshire | \$17,320,649,176 |
| 8 | Nebraska | \$17,367,830,965 |
| 9 | Maine | \$17,676,038,583 |
| 10 | Rhode Island | \$18,636,960,291 |
| 11 | Montana | \$19,496,700,717 |
| 12 | West Virginia | \$23,640,020,456 |
| 13 | Alaska | \$31,715,653,280 |
| 14 | Hawaii | \$35,136,593,006 |
| 15 | Utah | \$37,987,328,775 |
| 16 | Kansas | \$40,737,986,356 |
| 17 | Arkansas | \$43,976,220,971 |
| 18 | Iowa | \$46,424,775,242 |
| 19 | Tennessee | \$47,826,122,962 |
| 20 | Oklahoma | \$51,903,613,095 |
| 21 | Wisconsin | \$52,842,437,646 |
| 22 | New Mexico | \$54,455,339,568 |
| 23 | Indiana | \$56,748,217,042 |
| 24 | Mississippi | \$64,300,123,348 |
| 25 | Nevada | \$69,697,815,811 |

| RANK | STATE | UNFUNDED LIABILITIES |
|------|----------------|----------------------|
| 26 | South Carolina | \$74,095,092,870 |
| 27 | Alabama | \$74,957,966,779 |
| 28 | Arizona | \$90,710,340,087 |
| 29 | Maryland | \$93,343,409,896 |
| 30 | Louisiana | \$94,320,807,435 |
| 31 | Kentucky | \$95,946,947,928 |
| 32 | North Carolina | \$96,402,637,555 |
| 33 | Oregon | \$97,781,712,858 |
| 34 | Connecticut | \$99,299,024,840 |
| 35 | Missouri | \$99,369,429,995 |
| 36 | Colorado | \$106,382,900,927 |
| 37 | Virginia | \$107,648,590,922 |
| 38 | Washington | \$107,740,838,715 |
| 39 | Minnesota | \$110,474,025,601 |
| 40 | Georgia | \$122,645,214,077 |
| 41 | Massachusetts | \$126,677,266,263 |
| 42 | Michigan | \$156,941,092,013 |
| 43 | Florida | \$210,153,896,482 |
| 44 | Pennsylvania | \$211,586,194,586 |
| 45 | New Jersey | \$235,489,469,324 |
| 46 | Ohio | \$331,420,701,160 |
| 47 | New York | \$347,542,971,698 |
| 48 | Texas | \$360,396,676,526 |
| 49 | Illinois | \$362,646,966,724 |
| 50 | California | \$956,081,787,553 |

Data is based on State Budget Solutions' calculations. To read the full report and methodology, see ALEC.org/PensionDebt2016.

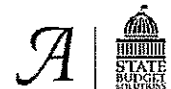
2016 UNFUNDED LIABILITIES PER CAPITA OF PUBLIC PENSION PLANS



| RANK | STATE | UNFUNDED LIABILITIES PER CAPITA |
|------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Tennessee | \$7,246 |
| 2 | Indiana | \$8,573 |
| 3 | Wisconsin | \$9,156 |
| 4 | Nebraska | \$9,159 |
| 5 | North Carolina | \$9,599 |
| 6 | Idaho | \$10,014 |
| 7 | Florida | \$10,367 |
| 8 | Delaware | \$11,907 |
| 9 | Georgia | \$12,007 |
| 10 | Utah | \$12,680 |
| 11 | West Virginia | \$12,819 |
| 12 | Virginia | \$12,841 |
| 13 | New Hampshire | \$13,017 |
| 14 | Texas | \$13,120 |
| 15 | South Dakota | \$13,147 |
| 16 | Oklahoma | \$13,270 |
| 17 | Arizona | \$13,285 |
| 18 | Maine | \$13,297 |
| 19 | North Dakota | \$13,494 |
| 20 | Vermont | \$13,910 |
| 21 | Kansas | \$13,991 |
| 22 | Arkansas | \$14,766 |
| 23 | Iowa | \$14,861 |
| 24 | Washington | \$15,026 |
| 25 | South Carolina | \$15,133 |

| RANK | STATE | UNFUNDED LIABILITIES PER CAPITA |
|------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 26 | Alabama | \$15,427 |
| 27 | Maryland | \$15,541 |
| 28 | Michigan | \$15,817 |
| 29 | Missouri | \$16,334 |
| 30 | Pennsylvania | \$16,527 |
| 31 | New York | \$17,556 |
| 32 | Rhode Island | \$17,644 |
| 33 | Massachusetts | \$18,644 |
| 34 | Montana | \$18,875 |
| 35 | Colorado | \$19,496 |
| 36 | Minnesota | \$20,124 |
| 37 | Louisiana | \$20,194 |
| 38 | Mississippi | \$21,488 |
| 39 | Kentucky | \$21,682 |
| 40 | Wyoming | \$23,277 |
| 41 | Nevada | \$24,110 |
| 42 | Oregon | \$24,270 |
| 43 | California | \$24,424 |
| 44 | Hawaii | \$24,544 |
| 45 | New Mexico | \$26,116 |
| 46 | New Jersey | \$26,288 |
| 47 | Connecticut | \$27,653 |
| 48 | Illinois | \$28,200 |
| 49 | Ohio | \$28,538 |
| 50 | Alaska | \$42,950 |

Data is based on State Budget Solutions' calculations. To read the full report and methodology, see ALEC.org/PensionDebt2016.



Ohio Retirement Study Council

ISSUE BRIEF

Issue 1, October 2016

Measuring Pension Liabilities

Recent studies¹ and newspaper articles² have reported different liability figures for Ohio's pension funds than those reported in the funds' CAFRs or by ORSC staff. Why is there a difference?

Discount Rate

When reporting unfunded future benefit liabilities, pension funds measure those liabilities using a "discount rate" that is based on assumed investment returns of fund assets. The idea is that the present value of those future benefit obligations is less in today's dollars due to anticipated investment returns that will be made prior to those obligations coming due. The variance in reported liability amounts happens because of differences and disagreements on the appropriate discount rate.

For example, say I have an obligation due in one year for \$1.08. Assuming I can earn 8% in one year, the amount I need saved today to pay that expense in one year is \$1.00. My discount rate is 8%. But if my discount rate were only 2%, I would need almost \$1.06 today to pay the same obligation in one year. The higher your discount rate the less money (less liability) you need in the present to pay for some future obligation. The lower your discount rate, the more money you need in the present to pay for the same obligation. When we consider the power of compound interest, even small variations in a discount rate can generate very different liability figures. The chart below demonstrates the various liabilities today for a payment in 15 years modified by discount rates.

| Liability Today | Discount Rate | Payment in 15 Years |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| \$555 | 4% | \$1000 |
| \$481 | 5% | |
| \$417 | 6% | |
| \$362 | 7% | |
| \$315 | 8% | |

This is where pension liability amounts diverge and why the amounts differ so dramatically. The Ohio systems have discount rates based on assumed rates of investment return ranging from 7.5%-8.25%. Based on these discount rates, the combined unfunded liabilities of the systems is roughly \$56 billion as of the most recent reporting period (2015). But, there are some that believe the systems should use a "no risk" discount rate pegged in some way to treasury securities. If you were to take the cur-

rent 30-year treasury rate of roughly 2.5% and require the systems to use it as a discount rate, the systems would have much greater liabilities. Using this type of analysis would, according to a recent Mercatus Center study, result in unfunded liabilities of \$262 billion for 2016.³

Mathematically, both can be accurate. ORSC staff uses the assumed rate of return discount rate as this rate provides more pertinent information related to the cost of the benefit and the plan for funding those benefits. The following sections discuss why this is the case.

The Argument for Assumed Rate of Return: What will this actually cost me?

The *assumed rate of return* method discounts future liabilities based on expected investment returns. As mentioned earlier, for Ohio this ranges from 7.5%-8.25% which results in a substantial reduction in

"The assumed rate of return method discounts future liabilities based on expected investment returns."

liabilities. However, if appropriately set, the assumed rate of return model seeks to reflect the closest *actual cost* in today's dollars of future pension benefits. The vast majority of liabilities are paid through investment income (up to 70%) rather than contributions from employers and employees. Therefore, it is highly likely that investment returns will constitute the majority of assets used to pay future benefit obligations. To not appropriately include this actual reduction in the cost of future benefits would be asking for more funds from today's employees and employers than are actually needed to pay that benefit.

The key in the above paragraph is "if appropriately set." An unrealistic assumed rate of return would artificially and temporarily reduce the cost of future benefits and would require increased contributions, or decreased benefits, in the future, and it would not have properly answered the question of "What will this cost me?" One way to mediate this problem is by frequently reviewing economic forecasts and past returns to create an appropriate rate. Ohio's systems do this through a statutory requirement to review all assumptions, including investment return assumptions, on a 5-year basis.⁴ Additionally, each retirement system conducts an independent actuarial valuation attesting to the funding status of the system annually, as required by law.

The Argument for "No-risk" Rates: What is the market value of this benefit?

The *market value of liabilities* (MVL) approach uses rates that are much closer to risk free securities. This approach is not interested in the funding of benefits but is instead concerned with a theoretical market price of the plan's obligations which is itself a function of the riskiness of non-payment. Conceptually, this is a more difficult method to express than the assumed rate of return method but is grounded in finance and economics.

"The market value of liabilities (MVL) approach uses rates that are much closer to risk free securities."

Pension benefits aren't traded on the open market, so how do we give them a market price? A fundamental aspect of finance is that the value of future cash flows must be valued at the riskiness of the payments. The premise of the MVL approach is that pension benefits are "bond-like" in that they are promises to make specific payments at a future date. Because benefits are almost sure to be paid, whatever the open market pays for a risk free security, such as treasury bonds, should be used in valuing the present day value of the benefit. That is, the discount rate should match the current rates for risk free securities on the open market.⁵

According to MVL proponents, liabilities of a plan are *completely independent of asset allocation and market returns*. The MVL approach is less concerned with *funding* but instead is focused on the market value of benefits *today* irrespective of theoretical market returns. Valuing a plan's liabilities based on hypothetical future investment returns is completely illogical from the MVL point of view—taking investment risk does not raise or lower today's liabilities.⁶ To MVL proponents, pension funds are mispricing their benefits to outside parties; the market would price pension benefits much differently than those benefits are reported by pension funds. The asymmetrical pricing between what the market would price pension benefits and how pension funds price them is illogical from a finance point of view.

The MVL method could, therefore, be used by a potential creditor of the fund to gain a market-consistent measurement of obligations.

Some MVL proponents admit that, though grounded in rules of modern finance and economics, this method is a more theoretical valuing of liability based on "what ifs."⁷ "What if" the pension fund terminated? What is the settlement value on termination? "What if" all participants went to the market and asked it to replicate their accrued pension benefits by purchasing fixed-income securities that would provide the same stream of income? Nevertheless, they suggest that they are pricing the liabilities as they would price *any other liability* that was on the open market.

Very Different Questions

The spirited debate between these positions was so great that the United States Government Accountability Office stepped in to issue their own report based on various expert opinions.⁸ That report didn't endorse either position but simply noted that each method was addressing a different question. "What will this cost me today?" and "What is the market value of this future benefit?" are not the same question. One is a question of cost while the other might be considered an expression of lender risk.

If you want to know how much a benefit in the future will cost you today, the assumed rate of return will provide the best estimate and give you the best guidance on necessary steps to realize that cost estimate. On the other hand, if you want a measurement of liabilities that is consistent with market prices, the MVL is superior. A pension fund and its oversight body would be more interested in understanding required costs for budgeting purposes, while a potential lender to the pension fund sponsor would be more interested in the consistent market measurement of those liabilities.

While the MVL approach can provide supplementary information, such as evaluating potential risk (i.e., liabilities if the plans do not meet their assumed rate of return), estimating a market value of future cash flows is not at all the same as estimating the future costs of paying for them. A retirement plan isn't terminating. It's not settling its account on the open market. Pension benefits aren't a bank loan

and they aren't a bond. An outside creditor may find value in a discount rate that is consistent with other lending measurements, but those measurements have almost no importance to whomever is funding the plan. Pension plans invest funds to pay benefits; ignoring this is to ignore the entire point of a pension plan: *to provide a cost-effective means of delivering retirement benefits over and above what employees would receive in the market if they invested in no risk securities.*

Practical Consequences of Each Method

There are potential problems with each approach. Pension funds may appear far more well-funded using the assumed rate of return method, encouraging either contribution rate holidays or enhanced benefits. This actually happened in Ohio. Before the market downturn after September 11, 2001, Ohio's systems were close to being 100% funded. As a result, an increase in the COLA from CPI to a flat 3% was supported.⁹ But 100% does not mean the fund could pay all future benefits today. 100% means 100%

"100% means 100% funded in today's dollars, if all assumptions are met."

funded in today's dollars, if all assumptions are met. After the market downturn, the pension funds found themselves with a liability that was paid for in nonexistent future dollars. The "surplus" being used for a benefit expansion had never existed.

Another consequence of the assumed rate of return method is an almost perverse incentive to take on risk. This is the exact opposite approach you want when your goal is to guarantee an eventual benefit payment. A higher assumed rate of return reduces present day liabilities, and therefore, present day costs. This reduction in present day costs encouraged pension funds across the country in the 2000s to increase their assumed rate of returns and also the funding risk of not making those returns.¹⁰ But this risk is not shared equally across generations. Should the systems not make their return, they will effectively have shifted costs from the current generation to future generations. Even worse, if this increased risk results in some tail-end negative result (i.e., the 2008 financial crisis), it would partially defund the system of assets. The assumed rate of return can, therefore, encourage risk while at the same time masking that risk.

But the MVL approach likewise has problems. Primary among them is budgeting. The MVL is not focused on how you fund a plan and, therefore, provides no assistance in determining an accurate contribution to a plan. If the systems did in fact purchase a risk free security, such as a 30-year treasury bond, it would be logical to use some blended 30-year return on those bonds in determining the discount rate and necessary present day costs to employees and employers. But since the systems do not do so, using that rate to determine present day costs would not provide an accurate cost figure. Indeed, a modest change in treasury rates could dramatically alter the MVL method liability figure without any real relationship to the funding strategies of the pension funds. This would result in extreme year-by-year budgeting swings in contribution rates from employees and employers.

There is also a very practical problem for the MVL approach that is unique to Ohio. The MVL assumption, that the payments are virtually guaranteed, is simply incorrect in the case of Ohio's systems. The evidence for this claim is quite simple. In 2011, billions of dollars of liability for the systems disappeared through plan design changes in S.B. 340, 341, 342, 343, and 345. Until pension benefits are granted, they can change in Ohio. For Ohio, then, future liabilities are not "fixed." Were

"Until pension benefits are granted, they can change in Ohio. For Ohio, then, future liabilities are not 'fixed.'"

Ohio to use the MVL method, the market would have to determine a rate greater than a risk free rate. It would be difficult to find a comparable product on the open market. What is a comparable security that has guaranteed payments except that those payments will change as necessary?

ORSC Staff Perspective

Measurement of liabilities is an issue of fraught debate.¹¹ The Actuarial Standards Board has not indicated a preference for either method, instead noting that different parties may have different measurement purposes.¹²

ORSC staff's purpose is to provide practical, useful, and accurate information to the ORSC and general public. For these reasons, staff uses the assumed rate of return when reporting liability on our annual summary sheets and when providing information to outside parties. The ORSC staff perspective is that the assumed rate of return method provides the best estimation of eventual costs today that are necessary to fund a benefit in the future and, therefore, provides the best budgeting of necessary contributions. We believe this information, whether current contributions will cover plan liabilities over time, provides the best actionable information to determine if contribution rates or liabilities (plan benefits) need to be altered. We find this to be more useful information than a theoretical settlement value of the funds. This approach is consistent with other funds nationwide, as no funds use MVL for funding calculations and very few report liabilities using MVL.

This is not to say that the MVL approach does not provide value. As discussed above, the MVL can provide additional information, particularly regarding investment risks. A consistent and effective method of evaluating risk is currently lacking but would be beneficial. That said, it is important to note that the systems are pre-funded (unlike Social Security). As an added protection, the systems are required to submit a plan if they are unable to amortize unfunded liabilities over a 30-year period. Given the ORSC's objective, to ensure that contribution rates match plan obligations for those active members who will retire in the future, ORSC staff finds the assumed rate of return method to be more useful than the MVL approach.

"The Actuarial Standards Board has not indicated a preference for either method, instead noting that different parties may have different measurement purposes."

¹ Mercatus Center, George Mason University, "Ranking the States by Fiscal Condition, 2016 Edition" (June 2016), available online at http://mercatus.org/sites/default/files/Norcross-Fiscal-Rankings-2-v3_1.pdf

² <http://www.portclintonnewsheald.com/story/opinion/2016/08/23/column-opers-hedge-funds-grew-zero-billion-years/89209448/>

³ Mercatus Center, George Mason University, "Ranking the States by Fiscal Condition, 2016 Edition" (June 2016), available online at http://mercatus.org/sites/default/files/Norcross-Fiscal-Rankings-2-v3_1.pdf

⁴ R.C. 145.22, 742.14, 3307.51, 3309.21, and 5505.12.

⁵ A much more detailed finance perspective of the MVL approach is available through a draft paper coauthored by the American Association of Actuaries and Society of Actuaries. The Joint AAA/SOA Pension Finance Task Force, "Financial Economics Principles Applied to Public Pension Plans (Draft paper, 2016), 11. (Author's note: Joint Task

Force was disbanded in August 2016).

⁶ Donald J. Boyd and Peter J. Kiernan, "The Blinken Report: Strengthening the Security of Public Sector Defined Benefit Plans" (The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, 2014), 3. Available online at http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/government_finance/2014-01-Blinken_Report_One.pdf

⁷ Paul Angelo, "Understanding the Valuation of Public Pension Liabilities: Expected Cost vs Market Price" (American Enterprise Institute, 2013). Available online at: https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/-understanding-the-valuation-of-public-pension-liabilities-expected-cost-versus-market-price_144422774379.pdf

⁸ GAO, Pension Plan Valuation: Views on Using Multiple Measures to Offer a More Complete Picture (September 2014). Available online at <http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/666287.pdf>

⁹ H.B. 157 of the 124th General Assembly.

¹⁰ GAO, "State and Local Government Pension Plans: Governance Practices and Long-term Investment Strategies Have Evolved Gradually as Plans Take On Increased Investment Risk" (August 24, 2010). Available online at <http://www.gao.gov/assets/310/308867.pdf>

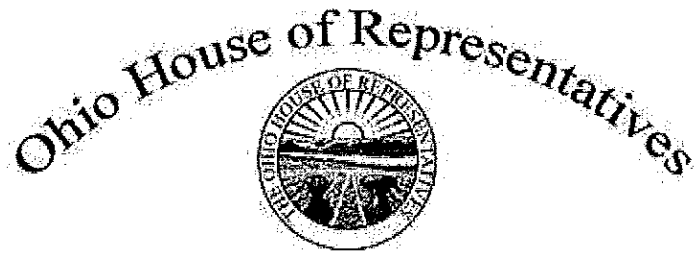
¹¹ Burr, Barry, "Actuarial Leaders Disband Task Force, Object to Paper on Public Plan Liabilities" (Pension & Investments, August 3, 2016), available online at <http://www.pionline.com/article/20160803/ONLINE/160809964/actuarial-leaders-disband-task-force-object-to-paper-on-public-plan-liabilities>
National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems Code of Conduct. Available online at <http://www.ncpers.org/codeofconduct> (Author's Note: ORSC withdrew its membership from NCPERS subsequent to its advocacy related to a trip to Hawaii in 2013). The NCPERS list of organizations they deem as undermining public pensions and who they refuse to work with is a who's who of entities that support the MVL approach (available online at http://www.ncpers.org/files/Schedule%20A_2015-07.pdf).

¹² Actuarial Standards Board, "Actuarial Standards of Practice No. 27" (Revised 2013), 10. Available online at http://www.actuarialstandardsboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/asop027_172.pdf

The ASB is considering *including* a solvency liability (i.e., MVL) in its standards.

Jeffery A. Bernard
Senior Research Associate
614-228-5644
jbernard@orsc.org

From: Rosenberger, Cliff
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 11:33 AM
To: Rosenberger, Cliff
Subject: MEMO: 2017 ALEC Spring Task Force Summit
Attachments: ALECSpringTaskForce.pdf



Cliff Rosenberger
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives

Memorandum

To: All House Republican Members
From: Speaker Cliff Rosenberger
Date: April 11, 2017
Re: 2017 ALEC Spring Task Force Summit

As many of you already know, the American Legislative Exchange Council is America's largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. Comprised of nearly one-quarter of the country's state legislators and stakeholders from across the policy spectrum, ALEC members represent more than 60 million Americans and provide jobs to more than 30 million people in the United States.

On May 5, 2017, ALEC will be hosting their Spring Task Force Summit, located in Charlotte, North Carolina. This one-day summit will give participants the opportunity to collaborate with legislative leaders from across the country on some of the following issues:

- Civil Justice

- Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development
- Communications and Technology
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Education and Workforce Development
- Energy, Environment and Agriculture
- Health and Human Services
- Tax and Fiscal Policy

I can personally attest to the benefit of working with leaders from across our great country to find solutions to common issues. If you are interested in joining ALEC and participating in the 2017 Spring Task Force Summit, I encourage you to visit their website at <https://www.alec.org/>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to Tyler Yapple in my office at Tyler.Yapple@ohiohouse.gov or 614-466-7959.



Cliff Rosenberger
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives

Memorandum

To: All House Republican Members
From: Speaker Cliff Rosenberger
Date: April 11, 2017
Re: 2017 ALEC Spring Task Force Summit

As many of you already know, the American Legislative Exchange Council is America's largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. Comprised of nearly one-quarter of the country's state legislators and stakeholders from across the policy spectrum, ALEC members represent more than 60 million Americans and provide jobs to more than 30 million people in the United States.

On May 5, 2017, ALEC will be hosting their Spring Task Force Summit, located in Charlotte, North Carolina. This one-day summit will give participants the opportunity to collaborate with legislative leaders from across the country on some of the following issues:

- Civil Justice
- Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development
- Communications and Technology
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Education and Workforce Development
- Energy, Environment and Agriculture
- Health and Human Services
- Tax and Fiscal Policy

I can personally attest to the benefit of working with leaders from across our great country to find solutions to common issues. If you are interested in joining ALEC and participating in the 2017 Spring Task Force Summit, I encourage you to visit their website at <https://www.alec.org/>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to Tyler Yapple in my office at Tyler.Yapple@ohiohouse.gov or 614-466-7959.

From: Yaple, Tyler
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 11:01 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: Fwd: Membership & Spring Meeting

Laurel can help make sure Rep. Schuring is good with his membership dues

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laurel Buckley <lbuckley@alec.org>
Date: April 12, 2017 at 4:20:34 PM EDT
To: "Tyler.Yaple@ohiohouse.gov" <Tyler.Yaple@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: "Nicholas.Stallard@ohiohouse.gov" <Nicholas.Stallard@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: Membership & Spring Meeting

Thanks for asking. No, he is not a current member. Do you know if he did it online or send it in the mail? If it's the mail, it's possible we didn't get it yet.

Laurel Buckley

Director of Development and Midwestern Relations
American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor
Arlington, VA 22202

C: (202) 689-9208
Email: lbuckley@alec.org

Upcoming Meetings:

2017 Spring Task Force Summit – May 5, 2017 – Charlotte, North Carolina
2017 Annual Meeting – July 19-21, 2017 – Denver, Colorado
2017 States and Nation Policy Summit – December 6-8, 2016 – Nashville, Tennessee

From: Tyler.Yaple@ohiohouse.gov [<mailto:Tyler.Yaple@ohiohouse.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 4:06 PM
To: Laurel Buckley
Cc: Nicholas.Stallard@ohiohouse.gov
Subject: RE: Membership & Spring Meeting

Awesome, thanks for this. I spoke with Rep. Kirk Schuring's office and they were under the impression that he had applied for membership. Can you confirm you haven't received anything from him? Thanks!

From: Laurel Buckley [<mailto:lbuckley@alec.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 3:54 PM
To: Yapple, Tyler <Tyler.Yapple@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Stallard, Nicholas <Nicholas.Stallard@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: Membership & Spring Meeting

Here are the members registered in Ohio:

| | | |
|----------------|---------|-------------|
| Senator | William | Coley |
| Representative | Ron | Hood |
| Senator | Matt | Huffman |
| Representative | Wes | Retherford |
| Speaker | Cliff | Rosenberger |
| Representative | Bill | Seitz |
| Senator | Louis | Terhar |
| Hon. | Andrew | Thompson |

Laurel Buckley
Director of Development and Midwestern Relations
American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor
Arlington, VA 22202

C: (202) 689-9208
Email: lbuckley@alec.org

Upcoming Meetings:

2017 Spring Task Force Summit – May 5, 2017 – Charlotte, North Carolina
2017 Annual Meeting – July 19-21, 2017 – Denver, Colorado
2017 States and Nation Policy Summit – December 6-8, 2016 – Nashville,
Tennessee

From: Tyler.Yaple@ohiohouse.gov [<mailto:Tyler.Yaple@ohiohouse.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 3:53 PM
To: Laurel Buckley
Cc: Nicholas.Stallard@ohiohouse.gov
Subject: Re: Membership & Spring Meeting

Thanks so much! The STFS roster would be much appreciated!

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 12, 2017, at 3:51 PM, Laurel Buckley <lbuckley@alec.org> wrote:

Yes, thank you for your help in building ALEC membership.
For your reference, I'm attaching the current ALEC
membership roster in Ohio. I highlighted in yellow those
who are expired and need to renew. Let me know if you
have any questions here.

Would you also like the attendee roster for STFS?

Laurel Buckley

Director of Development and Midwestern Relations
American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor
Arlington, VA 22202

C: (202) 689-9208
Email: lbuckley@alec.org

Upcoming Meetings:

2017 Spring Task Force Summit – May 5, 2017 – Charlotte,
North Carolina
2017 Annual Meeting – July 19-21, 2017 – Denver, Colorado
2017 States and Nation Policy Summit – December 6-8,
2016 – Nashville, Tennessee

From: Tyler.Yaple@ohiohouse.gov
[<mailto:Tyler.Yaple@ohiohouse.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 3:05 PM

To: Laurel Buckley
Cc: Nicholas.Stallard@ohiohouse.gov
Subject: Membership & Spring Meeting

Laurel,

I hope this message finds you well. As I'm sure you know, Speaker Rosenberger has been helping recruit members for ALEC membership and participation in the Spring Task Force Summit. Attached is an excel sheet with what we currently have; I just wanted to cross reference our lists and make sure we aren't missing anyone who has signed up.

Thank you!

Tyler Yaple

Tyler Yaple
Special Assistant to Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St. Columbus, OH 43215
14th Floor
(614) 466-7959

<17 0412 OH Member List.xlsx>

From: Laurel Buckley
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 11:17 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin
Subject: RE: ALEC Registration for Representative Kirk Schuring
Attachments: 2017 ALEC Membership Brochure_Public Sector_WEB.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Thanks for your email Justin. It looks like his registration DID go through. I think the difficulty you are seeing is that Representative Schuring is not an ALEC member. He will need to join as a member before the meeting in order to receive the reimbursements from ALEC. I am attaching a membership form here. Once we receive this, we will be able to add him to his task force of choice.

If you would prefer, he can also join online here: <https://www.alec.org/membership/>

Does this help? Please let me know if you have any more questions. Best,

Laurel Buckley

Director of Development and Midwestern Relations
American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor
Arlington, VA 22202

C: (202) 689-9208
Email: lbuckley@alec.org

Upcoming Meetings:

2017 Spring Task Force Summit – May 5, 2017 – Charlotte, North Carolina
2017 Annual Meeting – July 19-21, 2017 – Denver, Colorado
2017 States and Nation Policy Summit – December 6-8, 2016 – Nashville, Tennessee

From: Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov [mailto:Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 11:09 AM
To: Laurel Buckley
Subject: ALEC Registration for Representative Kirk Schuring

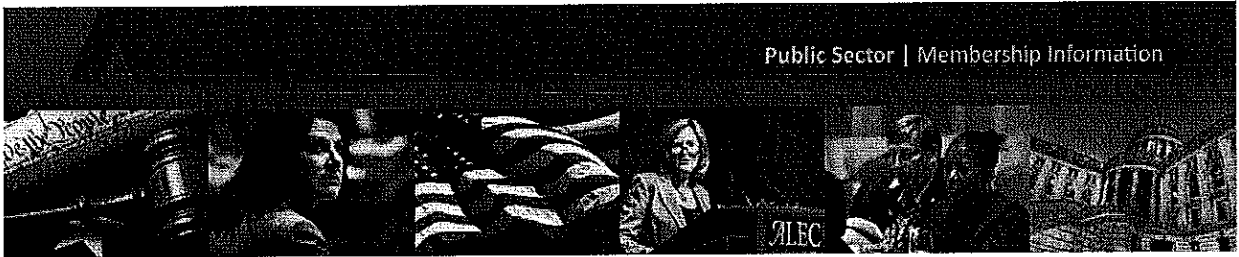
Hi Laurel,

I am trying to register my boss, Representative Kirk Schuring for ALEC. Could you provide information on how I might do so?

Thanks,

Justin Zielinski
Senior Legislative Aide
State Representative Kirk Schuring
Speaker Pro Tempore
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-752-2438





"Agriculture, manufactures, commerce and navigation, the four pillars of our prosperity, are the most thriving when left most free to individual enterprise."

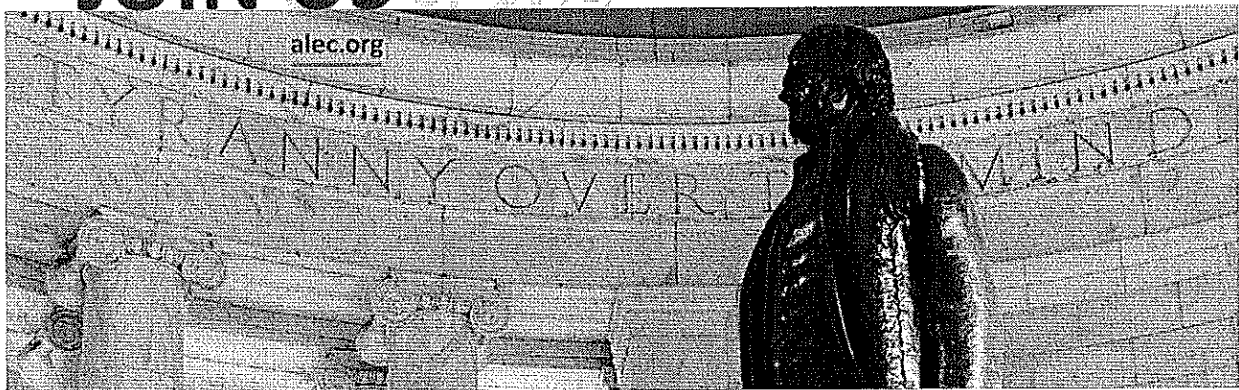
~ Thomas Jefferson

American
Legislative
Exchange
Council

2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202
TEL 703.373.0933 • FAX 703.373.0927
www.alec.org

JOIN US

alec.org



Mission To advance limited government, free markets and federalism

The American Legislative Exchange Council is America's largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators dedicated to limited government, free markets and federalism. Comprised of nearly one-quarter of the country's state legislators and stakeholders from across the policy spectrum, ALEC members represent more than 60 million Americans and create 30 million jobs in the United States.

ALEC provides a forum for experts to discuss business and economic issues facing the states. The ALEC model policy library is home to dynamic and innovative ideas that reduce the cost of everyday life and ensure economic freedom. ALEC ideas and publications serve as a toolkit for anyone who wants to increase the effectiveness and reduce the size, reach and cost of government.

ALEC is:

- 25% of America's state legislators
- 20% of Congress
- 7 sitting governors
- 30 million jobs
- 60 million Americans

ALEC American
Legislative
Exchange
Council
LIMITED GOVERNMENT • FREE MARKETS • FEDERALISM

>> ALEC MEMBER BENEFITS

ALEC is a forum for stakeholders to exchange ideas and develop real, state-based solutions to encourage growth, preserve economic security and protect hardworking taxpayers. ALEC members understand the importance of hearing from all sides of an issue and value public-private partnership in policy discussions. Job creators and state legislators alike come to ALEC to offer important policy perspectives to ensure economic security and opportunity in their communities.

By joining ALEC, state legislators gain the competitive advantage of shared knowledge and experience, as they learn from one another about what policies have succeeded or failed in the states.

- Discounted registration rate to ALEC meetings
- Invitations to member-only events
- Opportunity to serve on a task force to debate, discuss and vote on model policy
- Assistance from staff on model policy creation, communications and policy briefs
- Priority speaking opportunities at both state and national events
- Present issues for deliberation among task force members
- Contribute content for promotion to legislators and stakeholders around the country
- Receive regular communication about policy, research and events
- Access to the task force roster
- Opportunity to serve in task force leadership positions
- Assistance with editorial writing, media outreach, issue promotion, strategies and materials



ALEC EVENTS

Each year, ALEC hosts three meetings that bring members together to share ideas and strategies, debate policies and learn from like-minded leaders throughout the country.

SPRING TASK FORCE SUMMIT

An intensive meeting of ALEC task force members, the Spring Task Force Summit keeps members abreast of new developments in the states and begins the annual policy development process.

ANNUAL MEETING

The ALEC Annual Meeting, held each summer, is one of the nation's largest state-level conferences. Nearly 2,000 state legislators and industry experts gather for three days to discuss and address major state-policy issues.

STATES & NATION POLICY SUMMIT

The States and Nation Policy Summit, held in the winter, is a three-day conference focused on priorities for the upcoming legislative session as well as the balance of power between the states and the federal government.

For more information on these meetings, please visit: www.alec.org/meetings/

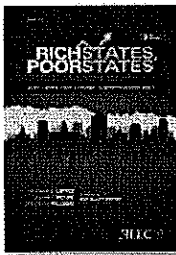
ISSUE A



4



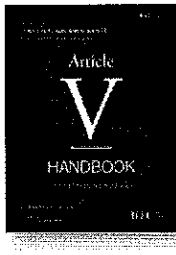
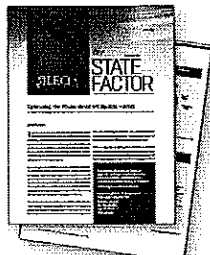
>> PUBLICATIONS



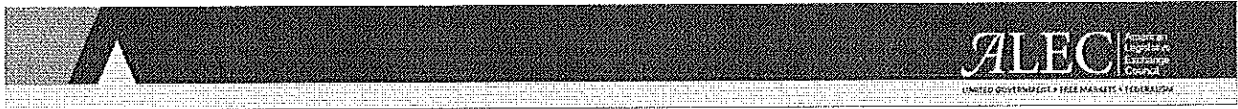
SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- *Innovate: Policy for the Future*
- *Education Report Card*
- *Rich States, Poor States*
- *Article V: Handbook for State Lawmakers*
- *State Factors*
- *Find more research at www.alec.org/publication/*

- [illegible]



To join ALEC, call 571.482.5013, visit ALEC.org/membership or fill out the form on the next page and return it to 2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22202.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM **LEGISLATOR**

American
Legislative
Exchange
Council

2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202
TEL 703.373.0933 • FAX 703.373.0927
www.alec.org

☐ MR. ☐ MRS. ☐ MS.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

☐ SENATOR ☐ DELEGATE ☐ REPRESENTATIVE

Party Affiliation: _____ District Number: _____

Leadership Positions: _____ Committee Assignments: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

MAILING ADDRESS 1: ☐ HOME ☐ BUSINESS

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

MAILING ADDRESS 2: **LEGISLATIVE OFFICE**

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

PLEASE SELECT THE TASK FORCE(S) YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN. NUMBER YOUR TOP THREE CHOICES:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy, Environment and Agriculture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Human Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications and Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> International Relations and Federalism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice Reform | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax and Fiscal Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Workforce Development | |

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

☐ CARD: ☐  ☐  ☐ 


Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ / _____ CVC: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

☐ CHECK: Included (\$100.00 for a two-year membership)

PLEASE EMAIL, FAX OR MAIL TO: American Legislative Exchange Council **ATTN: Membership**

 Email: membership@alec.org  Fax: 703.373.0927

 Mail: 2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600 | Arlington, VA 22202

*American Legislative Exchange Council is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions and membership fees are tax deductible.
IRS Tax Code #52-0140979*

Revised 02/13/17

From: Zielinski, Justin
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 2:21 PM
To: 'Laurel Buckley'
Subject: RE: ALEC Registration for Representative Kirk Schuring

Thanks for the update, Laurel.

I went to the below site and received a message that said the card declined 4 times but then after waiting some time, it said this was a duplicate request. Just wanted to be sure: A- that he is now a member of ALEC and B- that he does not get charged multiple times.

Thanks for your continued help.

Justin

From: Laurel Buckley [mailto:lbuckley@alec.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 11:17 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: ALEC Registration for Representative Kirk Schuring

Thanks for your email Justin. I looks like his registration DID go through. I think the difficulty you are seeing is that Representative Schuring is not an ALEC member. He will need to join as a member before the meeting in order to receive the reimbursements from ALEC. I am attaching a membership form here. Once we receive this, we will be able to add him to his task force of choice.

If you would prefer, he can also join online here: <https://www.alec.org/membership/>

Does this help? Please let me know if you have any more questions. Best,

Laurel Buckley
Director of Development and Midwestern Relations
American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor
Arlington, VA 22202

C: (202) 689-9208

Email: lbuckley@alec.org

Upcoming Meetings:

2017 Spring Task Force Summit – May 5, 2017 – Charlotte, North Carolina

2017 Annual Meeting – July 19-21, 2017 – Denver, Colorado

2017 States and Nation Policy Summit – December 6-8, 2016 – Nashville, Tennessee

From: Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov [mailto:Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov]

Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 11:09 AM

To: Laurel Buckley

Subject: ALEC Registration for Representative Kirk Schuring

Hi Laurel,

I am trying to register my boss, Representative Kirk Schuring for ALEC. Could you provide information on how I might do so?

Thanks,

Justin Zielinski
Senior Legislative Aide
State Representative Kirk Schuring
Speaker Pro Tempore
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-752-2438



From: Laurel Buckley
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 3:04 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin
CC: Spencer Chretien
Subject: RE: ALEC Registration for Representative Kirk Schuring

Hello Justin, yes I see the attempts you made. I don't believe any of them went through, so his credit card should not be charged. Perhaps it would be easiest to call our membership manager and he can take the payment over the phone and manual process the membership. Would you have time to give Spencer Chretien, cc'ed here, a call at 571-482-5013?

Laurel Buckley
Director of Development and Midwestern Relations
American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor
Arlington, VA 22202

C: (202) 689-9208
Email: lbuckley@alec.org

Upcoming Meetings:

2017 Spring Task Force Summit – May 5, 2017 – Charlotte, North Carolina
2017 Annual Meeting – July 19-21, 2017 – Denver, Colorado
2017 States and Nation Policy Summit – December 6-8, 2016 – Nashville, Tennessee

From: Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov [mailto:Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 2:21 PM
To: Laurel Buckley
Subject: RE: ALEC Registration for Representative Kirk Schuring

Thanks for the update, Laurel.

I went to the below site and received a message that said the card declined 4 times but then after waiting some time, it said this was a duplicate request. Just wanted to be sure:
A- that he is now a member of ALEC and B- that he does not get charged multiple times.

Thanks for your continued help.

Justin

From: Laurel Buckley [mailto:lbuckley@alec.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 11:17 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: ALEC Registration for Representative Kirk Schuring

Thanks for your email Justin. I looks like his registration DID go through. I think the difficulty you are seeing is that Representative Schuring is not an ALEC member. He will need to join as a member before the meeting in order to receive the reimbursements from ALEC. I am attaching a membership form here. Once we receive this, we will be able to add him to his task force of choice.

If you would prefer, he can also join online here: <https://www.alec.org/membership/>

Does this help? Please let me know if you have any more questions. Best,

Laurel Buckley

Director of Development and Midwestern Relations
American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor
Arlington, VA 22202

C: (202) 689-9208
Email: lbuckley@alec.org

Upcoming Meetings:

2017 Spring Task Force Summit – May 5, 2017 – Charlotte, North Carolina
2017 Annual Meeting – July 19-21, 2017 – Denver, Colorado
2017 States and Nation Policy Summit – December 6-8, 2016 – Nashville, Tennessee

From: Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov [mailto:Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 11:09 AM
To: Laurel Buckley
Subject: ALEC Registration for Representative Kirk Schuring

Hi Laurel,

I am trying to register my boss, Representative Kirk Schuring for ALEC. Could you provide information on how I might do so?

Thanks,

Justin Zielinski
Senior Legislative Aide

State Representative Kirk Schuring
Speaker Pro Tempore
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-752-2438



From: Zielinski, Justin
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 3:07 PM
To: 'Laurel Buckley'
CC: 'Spencer Chretien'
Subject: RE: ALEC Registration for Representative Kirk Schuring

Yes, just spoke with Spencer.

Thank you to BOTH of you for your assistance. Rep. Schuring looks forward to being a member!

Have a great rest of the week,

Justin

From: Laurel Buckley [mailto:lbuckley@alec.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 3:04 PM
To: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Spencer Chretien <schretien@alec.org>
Subject: RE: ALEC Registration for Representative Kirk Schuring

Hello Justin, yes I see the attempts you made. I don't believe any of them went through, so his credit card should not be charged. Perhaps it would be easiest to call our membership manager and he can take the payment over the phone and manual process the membership. Would you have time to give Spencer Chretien, cc'ed here, a call at 571-482-5013?

Laurel Buckley
Director of Development and Midwestern Relations
American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor
Arlington, VA 22202

C: (202) 689-9208
Email: lbuckley@alec.org

Upcoming Meetings:
2017 Spring Task Force Summit – May 5, 2017 – Charlotte, North Carolina
2017 Annual Meeting – July 19-21, 2017 – Denver, Colorado
2017 States and Nation Policy Summit – December 6-8, 2016 – Nashville, Tennessee

From: Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov [mailto:Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 2:21 PM
To: Laurel Buckley
Subject: RE: ALEC Registration for Representative Kirk Schuring

Thanks for the update, Laurel.

I went to the below site and received a message that said the card declined 4 times but then after waiting some time, it said this was a duplicate request. Just wanted to be sure:
A- that he is now a member of ALEC and B- that he does not get charged multiple times.

Thanks for your continued help.

Justin

From: Laurel Buckley [mailto:lbuckley@alec.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 11:17 AM
To: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: ALEC Registration for Representative Kirk Schuring

Thanks for your email Justin. It looks like his registration DID go through. I think the difficulty you are seeing is that Representative Schuring is not an ALEC member. He will need to join as a member before the meeting in order to receive the reimbursements from ALEC. I am attaching a membership form here. Once we receive this, we will be able to add him to his task force of choice.

If you would prefer, he can also join online here: <https://www.alec.org/membership/>

Does this help? Please let me know if you have any more questions. Best,

Laurel Buckley
Director of Development and Midwestern Relations
American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor
Arlington, VA 22202

C: (202) 689-9208
Email: lbuckley@alec.org

Upcoming Meetings:

2017 Spring Task Force Summit – May 5, 2017 – Charlotte, North Carolina

2017 Annual Meeting – July 19-21, 2017 – Denver, Colorado

2017 States and Nation Policy Summit – December 6-8, 2016 – Nashville, Tennessee

From: Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov [mailto:Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov]

Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 11:09 AM

To: Laurel Buckley

Subject: ALEC Registration for Representative Kirk Schuring

Hi Laurel,

I am trying to register my boss, Representative Kirk Schuring for ALEC. Could you provide information on how I might do so?

Thanks,

Justin Zielinski
Senior Legislative Aide
State Representative Kirk Schuring
Speaker Pro Tempore
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-752-2438

